[President.]

5 P. M. One hour being available for question time, and another hour (1 to 2 P. M.) as lunch interval, the remaining four hours will be treated as one full day and two hours as half a day. If the whole of the first hour is not taken up for questions and answers, the time left over will be available for the voting of Demands for Grants. Such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any particular Demand but will be available to the House and thus enable them to reach more Demands.

The general discussion of the Budget will now commence and I call upon the Deputy President.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pathanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, it is a matter of deep gratification and pride for us to know that the revenue of the State has reached the peak level of Rs. 3 crores, at level which has not been reached in the past. This has now placed the State in a very pre-eminent position among the States of India. It gives us the third rank, Hyderabad and Mysore alone being above us.

Sir, the Revised Estimates that have been placed before us anticipate a substantial surplus of about Rs. 24 lakhs and estimates for the coming year are expected to yield a surplus of about Rs. 5 lakhs. That it will be possible for us to realise a substantial surplus of about Rs. 24 lakhs during the present year is a remarkable tribute to the wise and able handling of the finances and financial transactions of the State by the Head of the Administration and also to the innate soundness of the finances of the State. But we should not on this ground give ourselves up to undue optimism. If you look at the figures that have been tabulated in the Budget Memorandum presented along with the Budget, it will be found that although we have been able to realise a surplus this year and to budget for a surplus during the coming year, our revenues have been subject to wide fluctuations during the past quarter of a century so much so it is a warning to us that we must be very careful about the future. I am suggesting that it should be possible for us to create a substantial revenue surplus. I therefore welcome the decision of the Government to add to the Revenue Reserve Fund that has been created, by the allocation of the anticipated surplus of Rs. 24·32 lakhs for the year, thus raising it to about Rs. 33 lakhs.

I hope, Sir, that this policy of building up a substantial reserve fund will be steadily pursued, particularly in view of the uncertain conditions of the present international situation which are likely to have very serious repercussions on the finances of a maritime State like ours.

Sir, coming to the Budget Estimates presented to us, I shall now refer to a few salient features of the estimates, and of the programme and policy that have been adumbrated in the speech of the Financial Secretary introducing the Budget Estimates. In the first place my attention has been drawn to the fact that the working of the Travancore

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section of the South Indian Railway has begun to yield a substantial revenue to the State after a very long period of deficits. This year it is expected that the contribution to our revenue by the railway will be about 3·5 lakhs of rupees and it is estimated that we shall be getting another 3 lakhs of rupees during the next year. I hope, Sir, that the working of the railway will continue to yield a substantial recurring revenue to the Exchequer of the State and the railway will not be a source of burden or liability to the State hereafter.

The next item of revenue which catches my eye is the Forest revenue. After a number of years our Forest revenue has begun to grow steadily. The Forest revenue which stood at Rs. 16·98 lakhs in 1115 shot up to Rs. 18·95 lakhs in 1116. It is expected to reach Rs. 26 lakhs during the current year. This shows that the revenue from the Forest is growing steadily. But, Sir, I was surprised to learn the other day from the speech of the Financial Secretary that the Government have under contemplation proposals to re-organise the Department with a view to tapping new sources of revenue under Forest and also to bring about a re-distribuiton of the territorial jurisdiction of the divisional officers and to cut down the number of divisions. I am afraid, Sir, that this is not the time to bring about a re-distribution with a view to reducing the number of divisions when the revenue from this source shows a tendency to rise. This is just the time for expansion of the department so that the revenue may be safeguarded, if possible, by increasing the number of divisions and by increasing the staff as well.

I am glad to find in regard to the Medical Department that it is proposed to decentralise the administration by the appointment of a few District Officers. This is a very welcome decision on the part of the Government. This is the natural outcome of the policy steadily pursued by the Government in the past of creating a net work of Hospitals and Dispensaries in the State. I am sure this decision of the Government to decentralise the Medical Department will be conducive to increased efficiency of the Department.

I note, Sir, that it has been decided to make a provision of 2 lakhs of rupees for the payment of a dearness allowance of one rupee per mensem to lower subordinates in Government service and I also note that there is a provision of one lakh of rupees for Distress Relief. These two provisions must be very welcome to this House as they are designed to meet the requirements of the present situation.

Now, Sir, I shall refer to another question, *viz.*, a serious problem confronting the State. One of the chief problems with which this State has been faced even in normal times is the problem of food supply. We have to a very great extent depended upon rice and paddy imported from Burma and Siam even in normal times. The outbreak of the war has created a rather unprecedented and serious situation in this respect and the problem has been further aggravated by the Japanese aggression in the East, so much so the supply of rice and

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[Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

paddy has practially come to a dead stop. But it is reassuring to find that the Government have taken very wise and prompt steps in this matter and have secured the co-operation of the Madras Government and of the Cochin Government and have also made arrangements for getting adequate supplies from Tanjore and the Northern Circars. We are very happy to learn also that the State of Cochin has been co-operating with us to the fullest extent possible in securing the supplies and the State is working in close concert with us in this matter. The other day, Sir, in your address you referred to the problem of petrol and kerosene supplies and the various difficulties with which people are confronted in getting supplies. You said, Sir, that people will have to go without petrol within a very short time and they will have to adjust themselves to the new situation. In this connection, Sir, I am reminded and forcibly reminded too, of the fact that the number of motor vehicles in the State has been steadily on the increase and the number is out of all proportion to the needs of the country. It is a serious drain on the resources of this country especially now when all available supplies of petrol are needed for essential purposes. Therefore, Government ought to take steps to cut down the number of vehicles available in the country. Government should make a start by restricting in the first place the number of vehicles owned by their officers to a very limited minimum. In this connection I wish to refer to the question of tolls.

Tolls have been giving us a very substantial revenue. About 7·5 lakhs of rupees are expected to be received this year. But in consequence of the reduction of the motor traffic it is expected that the revenue may fall to Rs. 4·5 lakhs, and there may be further fall later. I suggest in all seriousness, that the present moment ought to be availed of by Government to do away with this revenue from tolls as several other Governments have done and resort to a system of taxation on motor vehicles to reimburse themselves to the extent of the loss suffered on account of the abolition of tolls. Sir, this is a serious matter and the system of collecting tolls is not at all popular. It may be described as a system of revenue based upon a nuisance allowed on the public road. I think, Sir, that this is a very opportune time for doing away with tolls and for resorting to taxation of vehicles. It will have a double effect: it will reduce the number of vehicles and stop the drain and at the same time secure the revenue of Government.

I wish to advert to another subject. Sir, the banking system prevailing in the country does not adequately serve its purpose. It is well known that a banking crisis developed in Travancore in 1937. I may say that we have not yet emerged from the crisis. The commercial banks have been subjected to a very severe strain on account of the crisis which enveloped the country in 1937 and the recent developments in the international situation have aggravated the situation. The commercial banking system cannot be said to be very sound at the present moment. The commercial classes of the country are seriously

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affected by the dwindling down of the credit facilities afforded by the commercial banks and the situation shows no signs of improvement. It is high time for the Government to step in and find out ways and means to re-organise the whole system of commercial banking on a very sound footing. They must take the initiative by organising a system of sound commercial banking in the country or a system of giving subsidies to commercial banks either here or outside. This is a very essential matter affecting the economy of the State, to which I wish to draw the serious attention of the Government.

Now, Sir, before concluding, I am very happy to say that Sir Henry Craik, Political Adviser to His Excellency the Viceroy has paid a visit to our country at this important time when we are discussing the budget and is in our midst. There is a saying, Sir, that "Dilli dur ast." It signifies not only the fact that geographically Travancore is situated far away from Delhi. It is also a figurative way of saying that the problems and difficulties we in South India are confronted with do not receive adequate degree of attention at the hands of the central authorities as in the case of North Indian States. It is a matter of happy augury that the Political Adviser to His Excellency the Viceroy should have found it possible to come down to the South at an important time in the history of this land and to be able to get first hand information concerning our problems, particularly those touching Travancore as a maritime State. We hope that he will impress the central authorities with the first hand knowledge of our problems which he will be able to gain during his sojourn here. We welcome him, Sir, in our midst with great pleasure.

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry cum Peermade*) : Sir, the House has been presented with what may be called the third war time budget. The political agitation that had forcibly distracted the attention of Government from more useful and constructive activities and had consequently caused a slight unsettlement of the pre-planned financial schemes had subsided towards the close of 1114 and Government went into the question of preparing the budget for 1115 in the hope that normal conditions would prevail. But those hopes were frustrated and the small domestic storm gave place to a tremendous international tempest. Since then a regular tussle was going on the Financial Administration of the State and the innumerable new and ever varying difficulties and handicaps presented by the war. The peculiar situation of the State made our problems particularly melancholy. Ours is a maritime State and one that depends for its revenue mainly on indirect taxation. On account of a wise and equitable policy of taxation followed by the Government of Travancore, land tax, which at one time contributed mainly to the resources of the State, contributes now only 13 per cent of the State's revenues today. When we were trying to din into th

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[Mr. Kainikara M. Padmanabha Pillai.]

cars of the British Government that the dumping of the Ceylon Copra in the Indian markets was practically smothering the poor cocoanut planter in Travancore, the British Government retorted by saying that we ourselves were imposing an export duty on copra. But they did not take the trouble to understand that even including the export duty the tax per acre of cocoanut garden stands below the land tax alone in Malabar and Cochin. It has been the policy of the Travancore Government to keep the land tax at a minimum and to resort to indirect taxation which would automatically fluctuate with the fluctuation in production and price. When it is said that 70 per cent of our revenue is derived from indirect taxation and of all the various items that go to contribute the revenue, the customs stands uppermost, the effect on our revenue of a world war and the loss of our sea borne trade would be self-sufficient. Therefore in 1115 and 1116 Government had to strain their resources to the utmost and to scrupulously economise their expenditure to maintain the financial equilibrium. In 1116 the actuals fell by 9 lakhs below the Budget Estimate. It was by economising the expenditure to the tune of 6 lakhs Government were able even approximately to achieve the anticipated results. But, Sir, this year, at least for the present, we seem to have won the struggle. The Revised Estimate stands 20 lakhs above the Budget Estimate. The revenue receipts have reached the peak point *viz.*, 30 lakhs and in the matter of revenue the State has been pushed on to the third rank in the order of Indian States. These are matters about which the Administration can feel a legitimate pride even in normal conditions.

Though the revenue has reached the peak point the Administration has been commendably cautious in preparing the budget for the next year. This is a moment when nobody can be too cautious. This unexpected rise in our revenue may be after all a passing phenomenon. A few good convoys might have reached the Cochin harbour to keep up the volume of our sea borne trade. The income from the forest is decidedly a transitory phenomenon. Therefore there is every reason for moderation in regard to anticipations. I am glad to note that Government have realised the fact.

This is a war time budget. The one topic that occupies the focus of our attention today is the war. So it is natural that the budget of every State, especially a maritime State, would be a war time budget. The most important function of any State today is to see how they can face the direct and indirect reactions of the war. First of all there is the question of the conduct of the war; the speedy and effective pushing forward of the military operations to a victorious conclusion. Secondly there is the question of protecting the life and property of the people, especially from air raids. Thirdly there are the numerous indirect repurcussions of the war, for example, the loss of employment, the cessation of regular trade and commerce, the scarcity of food etc. The Financial Secretary has reminded us that we have

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already contributed 15 lakhs of rupees towards war expenditure. We have also sent two battalions from the State Forces. In the matter of war supplies I am sure that Travancore stands behind no part of India. We have also given a large number of labourers, a considerable number of trained technicians and about 150 young men to receive King's Commissions. We have also sent about 15,000 people as soldiers, clerks, etc. Not one train leaves Trivandrum today which does not resound with cheers proposed by our young men who are joining the Army. Nor have they been drawn from the lower strata. My honourable friend Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai's son has already gone to Poona to be trained as a King's Commissioned Officer and I may say that one of my own brothers is waiting his memo. I am only saying these things to show that we are giving our best. And we are about to make the greatest of our contributions, a contribution which money cannot purchase, force cannot coerce and temptation cannot win. We are about to offer Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar himself.

So much for the direct contribution to the war. Coming to the second aspect of the question I need not say that it is not within our power to prevent or to oppose any possible attack by any of our enemy nations. There was a time when every man—for the matter of that almost every woman—in this country had a spartan training and discipline. That was a time when at a call from our Rubber the whole country would have taken up arms. But that age is gone and gone so soon. We have been so effectively disarmed and disorganised. Our kalaries and Asans have disappeared. Our military tradition has been forgotten. I am afraid that we had even our military instinct. But no, thank God, The spontaneous enthusiasm with which our young men are rushing to the recruiting booths shows that the spirit is still living and unquenched. Given the opportunity, given the necessary arms and above all given the freedom, Travancore shall supply not merely 15,000 recruits, not one or two battalions, but I say that within six months or one year we shall be able to mobilise a force strong enough to protect the whole of the Malabar coast. Leaving that aside, even under the present circumstances, there is much we can do. We can train our people to face danger boldly like men and women, face danger calmly like disciplined citizens. We can see that ignorance does not aggravate danger and cowardice does not add disgrace to disaster. There was a moment of extreme tension when people were tried. When the Japanese danger was near, when Colombo, Trincomali and Cocouada were bombed and when we were expecting to be bombed at any moment the people were cool and courageous. The inspiration given by the Royal Family which did not even go to the Hills as usual, but true to the ancient Hindu Rajadharma remained in the midst of their subjects and at the spot of greatest danger and the stirring appeal made by you, Sir, had immediate and full response. It is gratifying to note that steps are also being taken to train people to face all possible dangers.

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[Mr, Kainikara M. Padmanabha Pillai.]

Coming now to the third aspect, namely, how to meet the indirect effects of war, it is in this aspect that the Government and the people have got the greatest scope for constructive activity. If your appeal to the people to be bold has had satisfactory response, the response to your other appeal, namely, not to leave one inch of land uncultivated has had even fuller and prompter response. The other day when addressing the joint sitting of the two Houses, you said that the Government are thinking even of confiscating the lands left uncultivated. I say, Sir, there is no necessity for such a drastic step. Even under normal circumstances, the mere prospect of getting better prices for an article makes people cultivate it, if to it is added the necessity for food no compulsion will be needed to persuade them.

One thing that any Government must do now is to adopt preventive measures to control prices and to prevent profiteering by merchants. Travancore Government has been extremely prompt and rigorous in taking these steps. It is this promptness that has saved us from a repetition of the experiences that we had during the last war. But you have told us that no steps are being taken in British India to control prices. If that is so the situation is really hard. With the loss of Burma, the British Indian rice producer has got a sort of monopoly. If the price is not controlled there, the control of prices here will be useless. If the cost price is left uncontrolled there are only two alternatives for our importers, namely either to fix a proportionately high sale price or not to import at all. Therefore I appeal to Government to move the British Government to see that prices are controlled in British India also so that the quota that is allowed to us is made available at reasonable rates.

The Financial Secretary has told us of the relief measures undertaken in the famine stricken coastal areas and the help rendered to evacuees. These are highly commendable activities. But there is no denying the fact that this is not going to touch even the fringe of the problem. We require about 3 lakhs of tons of rice a year. We were producing about 2¼ lakhs and getting 3½ lakhs from outside. Now Burma is gone. Due to the earnest endeavour of this Government it has been possible for us to get some rice from Tanjore and other districts of Madras. But we are told that our ratio is 1·80 lakhs of tons. Thus we are face to face with the mathematical fact that our supply falls short of our demand by about 1·70 lakhs of tons or by about 30 per cent of our needs. The prospect is gloomy. There is also scarcity of kerosene oil. We are told that the kerosene oil supply has been cut down by fifty per cent. But if kerosene oil is stopped we can at least take back to cocoanut oil or we can have a black-out. There is scarcity of clothing. But we have been always simple in our dress and we may try to make it simpler. But the question of food supply stands on a different footing.

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Something can be done by the introduction of scientific cultivation. I am glad to note that Government have opened several new manure depots and provision has been made for the supply of manure on credit system on the security of crops. This will to some extent increase the output. But I do not think it will substantially do it. It is not possible to make a country scientifically minded by a moment's notice and our agriculturists are not only conservative. If this problem is to be tackled successfully it can only be done by expanding the area under cultivation to the maximum limit. The annual cultivation of punja lands the cultivation of the high level wet lands and the lands under lift irrigation would substantially increase the output of paddy. I am glad to find that the Agricultural, Public Works and Electrical departments are co-operating to see what could be done in this direction. Last year a proposal was made in the Assembly that the hill areas covered with grass might be registered for the cultivation of paddy. I opposed that proposal then. I still oppose it. I also consider that what remains of our lakes must not be registered. But the grassy lands in the hilly areas might be leased out for one or two years on the *tangya* system and combined with the cultivation by the lessees of suitable and valuable timber so that the output of paddy may be increased for the present and the hills may be converted into rich forests. One other suggestion I would make in this connection is a change in diet. Even under normal circumstances the Travancorean eats too much rice. There must be propaganda for a change of diet. It would be best if people made a virtue of necessity and used this opportunity to make any necessary change in our diet by reducing the consumption of rice and introducing other items.

I have done. I am glad to find that Government have been able not only to balance their budgets but they have done and are doing everything possible to meet the various, direct, indirect and actual and possible reactions of the war. As I have said before, this is a time when nobody can be too sure of anything. All that a Government can do is to be resourceful and watchful and promptly react to the varying circumstances. All that people can do is to be bold and to be united. This is a supreme moment in the history of the world, the darkest and the most tragic crisis that humanity had ever to face. It is the duty of the State and of the people to stand bold and united. The other day we heard with extreme regret that even this moment of life and death is being exploited by some misguided young men. I take this opportunity to appeal to the House and through the House to the people to stop for the moment all child's play with fire. This is not the moment to experiment with theories and dogmas. This is a time when everything noble, good, human, and superhuman in us should rise and converge towards a united, consolidated and concentrated effort for the deliverance of mankind. I hope and trust that my country will not be found wanting.

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MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, friends and critics of Government just a few months before the introduction of the Budget were doubtful whether in view of the unsettled conditions in the world Government will be able to present a prosperity budget. I am glad that Government have after all been able to present a prosperity budget. Indeed Government have at the same time ensured that necessary provisions have been allotted for the continuance of the nation-building activities of a progressive State. In fact, there is one circumstance about which I wish to congratulate the Government and that is for the provision of Rs. 24 lakhs which they have kept in reserve to meet the conditions of lean years. While I am prepared to congratulate Government on the forethought they have exercised in this matter and the provision they have made in the Budget, I must at the same time say that in view of the experience some of us had during the depression period which followed immediately after the last war, we are afraid whether the sum of Rs. 24 lakhs will be sufficient to meet the difficulties which may confront us after the present war is over. I would therefore take this opportunity of requesting Government to realise in advance the difficulties of the situation, remembering the experiences this country had on the previous occasion, and be prepared with necessary funds to meet any eventualities during the post-war period.

Government have also to be congratulated on the cess they propose to levy on rubber. It is an industry which can now afford to bear this small cess. At the same time it is not a cess on the general agriculturist but it is only a cess on an industry which is prospering well. I therefore congratulate the Government on their decision to levy this cess at present which is a most satisfactory aspect of this budget. In past years the method of balancing the budget was by imposing some sort of new tax on the ordinary tax-payer. For the last few years it has been the feature that it is not the ordinary tax-payer that is taxed but indirect taxes are looked forward to by Government for augmenting its income.

The Financial Secretary points out in his speech that the fall in income under Electricity in 1117 is due to the fact that the Aluminium Factory is expected to start work only in August next. I do not know why it is so. The rumours in the country are to the effect that licenses are not obtained by those who are in charge of the factory for importing the necessary machinery.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The shoe is pinching elsewhere. It is not possible for us to import machinery for electric supply.

MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAI: This is an important item which will greatly help our war efforts and I request Government to use their earnest endeavours to help the importation of the necessary machinery.

Under income tax Government have wisely budgetted only for Rs. 15 lakhs for the coming year. This is as it should be because of the uncertain conditions that we are likely to pass through next year.

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At the same time, may I utter a warning to Government that they should not frighten away the commercial or industrial enterprises that are just beginning to settle in this country by introducing excess profits tax. I think this aspect will receive the serious consideration of Government.

I have also to congratulate Government for having provided funds liberally for the opening of a Show Room where machinery can be exhibited for the purpose of acquainting the people with the existence and working of such machinery. This is a step in the right direction and a desideratum which has been felt for a long time. In this connection, Sir, the members of this Assembly had repeatedly brought to the notice of Government the desirability and urgency of opening a department of Commerce. We are certainly aware of the help given by you to the commerce and industries of Travancore by personally undertaking the responsibility of getting orders from the Supply Department and by giving financial guarantees. The price of coir has as a consequence risen from Rs. 28 per candy to Rs. 52 per candy. We are very grateful for that and several similar help.

The increase in the price of coir is not only the one aspect of that, but it also relieved unemployment and distress in very many parts of the country. At the same time, Sir, I am sure you will agree that very many problems are likely to arise especially after the war. As it now stands we are practically deprived of all the foreign markets that we were having, and even with regard to British Indian markets, we are not able to secure sufficient wagon space in the railways to export the commodities which are purchased from this country. Various other difficulties are likely to confront us after the war, and I will therefore, take this opportunity to bring this matter to the notice of Government. The Economic Adviser to the Government of India has been already deputed on special duty by the Government of India to inquire into post-war possibilities of development of trade and industries and to find out and suggest to the respective Governments the measures necessary for ensuring a satisfactory state of affairs during the post-war period. Other countries like South Africa, Australia and Canada have done the same thing. We have our own problems and they are not like the problems of other countries. We have our peculiar problems to be discussed and understood and I think it behoves the Government to understand these difficulties now and at once and to formulate measures as to how and in what manner we have to tackle those questions in order to be sure our industries and trade do not suffer from another economic blizzard as we experienced, to our terrible cost, immediately after the last war. Sir, Government deserve the thanks of the country for having made it possible for us even in spit of the war to obtain sufficient and adequate supply of rice at a very reasonable level of price. We certainly are fully aware of the fact tha soon after the war started this Government even went to the extent of losing a few thousands of rupees in the initial stages.

PRESIDENT: More than that. Nearly a lakh.

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MR. M. L. JANARDANAN PILLAI: Well, Sir, that was what made it possible for Government to keep down the level of prices by about 35 to 40 per cent. We are also aware that Government have used their best endeavours to influence the Government of India and the Madras Government to secure for us a fairly good quota of rice for use in this country. But that is not enough. In the first place, as was pointed out by my friend Mr. Kainikara M. Padmanabha Pillai, the quota itself, I am afraid, is inadequate to meet the needs of the country. So long as price control is not effectively brought into operation in the Madras Presidency wherefrom we have to get our supplies it will be impossible to control prices here and if prices are not controlled there is likely to be serious trouble and discontent.

Let me sum up. Government have to be congratulated sincerely on the very careful attention they have paid to every detail in the budget under receipts and under expenditure. It shows that very careful scrutiny has been conducted by the Government in regard to each item. We have several small industries and some big industries. Our commerce requires careful watching and guidance by Government during these troublesome times and we have our own difficulties also. The President had remarked that we have to find our way out for ourselves, and be self-reliant and Government can only supplement our efforts. I trust, Sir, that when you are away in Delhi, *Delhi du ast* will not any longer be an impediment to us. We have the consolation that your absence is only for a short period and that you will return to us soon and this House has unmistakably expressed itself yesterday. The whole country prays that the best of blessings and the best of luck will attend you in the great mission on which you leave us, so that you may be enabled by Providence, to return to us very soon and be enabled to prepare much more prosperous budgets in the years to come.

MR. J. W. TOLSON (*Travancore Planters*): Sir, I wish to congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary on a Budget which shows progress and prosperity in spite of the difficult times we live in. Travancore is indeed fortunate in the third year of a world war to be able to show increased revenue to undertake further progressive works.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a few remarks on the subject of food supplies and to the lack of information relating to the procedure to be followed especially with regard to districts on the eastern frontiers. During the past months or so supplies have been prohibited from British India and when it is realised that on that frontier the distance may be only 10 or 20 miles with easy communications, the position becomes altogether acute when distances and transport increase by having to obtain supplies from such places as Kottayam and Muvattupuzha. In view of these difficulties may I be permitted to ask the aid of Government in helping in every way the small cardamom owner working in isolated areas.

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I also wish to draw the attention of Government to the present arrangements by which prices are fixed by the Food Control Committee and in order to show the difficulties I will quote the position with regard to Kerosene Oil.

Cost of one four gallon tin Kerosene Oil in Munnar; rate fixed by M/S. Burmah-Shell	Rs.	5	9	0
Refund rate on tin, fixed by M/S. Burmah-Shell	,,	0	10	0
Bulk rate for Kerosene per 4 gallon fixed by Messrs. Burmah-Shell	,,	4	15	0
Each tin is supposed to contain 24 bottles (although in many cases, I have only managed to get 23 1/2 bottles)—24 bottles at Government rate of As. 3 and Ps. 3 only.	,,	4	14	0
Assuming that there are 24 bottles per 4 gallon tin a merchant loses one anna per 24 bottles on the bulk selling rate				

From the figures it will be observed that what may be possible in Trivandrum and District is impossible in Districts with a long carriage.

Might I suggest that more power be given to the Food Control Sub-Committee in order that transport costs may be taken into account and the market from which supplies are being drawn.

I would also like to bring to the notice of Government the necessity if possible of obtaining supplies of quinine as I have seen a notice in the press stating that if care is taken supplies are sufficient for five years. If this is correct then may I be allowed to point out that any supplies that can be obtained to-day are now costing Rs. 150/200 per lb. The growing of Cinchona I know was tried out many years ago and perhaps it might be possible to find that there are still certain areas which still have trees growing on them.

Now may I refer to the latest Government order with regard to the opening up of new areas in rubber. This order states that only 100 acres may be allowed to any individual. This order in my opinion is detrimental to the war effort and a distinct handicap to anybody of Travancoreans who may wish to form a Company and with money coming into the State surely it is in the interest of Travancore to encourage the public to invest their money in Rubber which will not only help the war effort but be a source of revenue to the Government.

One other matter, Sir, I would like to touch on is the "Grow More Food Campaign" which you referred to the other day. This, I feel sure, Sir, has the whole-hearted support of the planting industry and to-day every endeavour is being made to produce more food. May I suggest, Sir, that as regards bringing in more areas, a new approach may be made from the co-operative point of view in many places. It is impossible to ask one, two or three individuals to live there and make

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[Mr. J. W. Tolson.]

progress, whereas by an organised, co-operative effort, for the purposes of a Grow More Food Campaign, I feel great progress would be made. Further, I feel that at a time such as this, it is necessary that the direction of Government should turn to guiding and definitely controlling the efforts. In regard to this, I have in mind a good portion of land which, up to the present year has been growing hill paddy but has now been planted with lemon grass. It is a pity, to put it mildly, that such an abuse should be allowed to go on.

May I, in conclusion, Sir, be permitted to congratulate you on your appointment to the Government of India and say how much your determination to succeed in so difficult an undertaking is appreciated and to wish you health and strength to complete to your own satisfaction a settlement which is so desired by us all.

SRY. T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*) : Sir, as one who has had the privilege of making a somewhat careful study of and offering my humble comments on the budgets of the State for over eight years, and as a Travancorean who is proud of my country, I rise to-day to speak on the budget presented by the Financial Secretary with feelings of particular gratification. At no time in the history of the world has every country been so much shaken by a devastating world war and its crushing repercussions as it is now and doleful tales are being heard from everywhere regarding the financial effects of this world-wide catastrophe. Travancore's position is peculiar, since it is a maritime State depending to a very great extent on its customs for a steady increase in its revenue; we are therefore feeling the effects of this second world war to an even greater extent than other places which have been brought into the orbit of its saturnine influence, and in the words of the Financial Secretary 'the war has come nearer to the shores of India and we are not far from the danger zone'. That at such a time the financial position of the State should be what it is, as disclosed by the budget presented, is a matter on which Travancoreans have every reason to feel proud and I hasten to offer my hearty congratulations to the Financial Secretary on the ability and the far-sightedness with which he had handled the financial resources of the State at this critical period in the world's history. His statements are full and frank and he has taken the members of the Legislature, as represented by the public, into his confidence by the lucid explanations given by him in the budget memorandum and also in the further elucidations given in his speech presenting the budget. Critical as the times are, and difficult as the position is, they have to be faced and the Government of His Gracious Highness the Maharaja have ably, done this, thanks to the ardent devotion to the interests of the State displayed by a Sovereign "young in years but old in wisdom", and to the unnerved drive, inspiring personality, the never-failing resourcefulness and unlimited sympathy of a Dewan, and whose lieutenants, prominent among whom, in this connection, is the Financial Secretary, are making strenuous endeavours to copy his example and rise equal to the occasion.

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Coming to the salient features of this budget, it is very gratifying to note that the current year as well as the ensuing year are supposed to close with a surplus, a surplus, as stressed by the Financial Secretary, "obtained not by starving the normal requirements of a progressive administration or crippling the usual measures of amelioration in relief of distress, but by the careful conservation of our resources without imposing on the poor ryot the burden of any new taxation and the exercise of due economy in all possible directions without impairing efficiency." We are particularly glad of the steps taken by the Government in the field of agriculture, industries and co-operation and we are thankful to the Government for their decision to grant a loan of one lakh of rupees to the Central Co-operative Bank, and also for the increased provision made for affording better help to the members of the backward communites. The special provision made for giving dearness allowance to subordinates receiving a pay of less than Rs 15, is very much appreciated by us. In this connection, Sir, I feel it my duty to praise the timely steps taken by the Government to deal with the matter of food and we are very grateful to you, Sir, for the assurance given by you that there will absolutely be no shortage of rice in this State. Your fore-sight and resourcefulness have stood the State in good stead in regard to the price and availability of yarn also. And your appeal to the people to grow more food, will, I am sure, meet with a ready and enthusiastic response.

In conclusion, I once again congratulate the Financial Secretary on the budget presented by him. It is our earnest prayer, Sir, that the hope you gave expression to, in bringing to a close your inspiring address the other day, namely that when you return to Travancore after the brief period of your absence, you hope to find an all-round progress in the matter of food, raiment and morale of the people, will be abundantly realised.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*): Sir, the guardians of the finances of many anxious nations in a disturbed and unstable world will cast their envious eyes on Travancore's sound economic position, as outlined by the Financial Secretary, when he introduced the Budget on Friday last. Excepting the proposal to increase the cess on Rubber from Re. 1 to Re. 1-8 per cent. and the doubtful proposal to impose an export duty on timber, the Financial Secretary has, without adding anything to the tax-payers' burden, which he realises is already enough, found it possible to hand to us a surplus budget.

Sir, it is satisfactory and gratifying to note from the budget that the Financial Secretary has given all interests a generous deal. It must be clear to all, who are not blinded by political prejudice, that the finances of Travancore are not only being handled carefully, economically and efficiently, but with a definite and sound policy as their guide. The Travancore Budget, Sir, like the Budgets of all the world over, has received and will continue to receive vehement criticisms in regard to many of its aspects, but there is one feature, Sir, which is very satisfactory and that is that Travancore's credit stands high and that the present Budget is calculated to maintain that credit unimpaired.

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[Mr. K. C. Karunakaran.]

Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary. This time last year, I brought to the notice of the Government certain difficulties and hardships of the Industrial and commercial community in the execution of the orders from the Supply Department. The Government have been successful in negotiating with the Government of India to open an Ordnance Inspection Depot at Alleppey. The Government have kindly placed certain number of customs godowns at the disposal of the Government of India. Sir, the establishment of this Depot at Alleppey has solved many of the financial, storing and transport difficulties hitherto experienced in connection with the supply of war materials from Travancore. The commercial community is indeed grateful for the endeavours of the Government in this direction. Sir, you have been very anxious to see that the Travancore coir interests work in close conjunction with those of Cochin and British Malabar. With this end in view, you have used your influence for the formation of the Malabar Coast Coir Rope Association which, I confidently trust, will go a long way in materially assisting those, who are engaged in the rope making industry on the coast. I may mention here, Sir, that the Dewan of Cochin was of great help and assistance to the organisers of this Association.

With the establishment of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Defence Department on Coir consisting of the representatives of the Coir Interests in British Malabar, Cochin and Travancore and the representatives of the Supply and the Ordnance Inspection Departments, we can now definitely take it that coir has come to stay as an important item in the war materials.

PRESIDENT: Don't you be too sure!

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN. Sir, the part the Government played to get coir substituted for many of the war requirements, where other fibres were used, is sufficiently known to all of us. These are some of the material and substantial achievements of this Government during the last twelve months.

Travancore is a maritime country with a growing internal and external trade. When we slowly began to experience that, owing to the shortage of freight, our well established external trade is bound to suffer sooner or later, we turned our attention on your advice to the vast internal market in British India. Sir, at present even this trade cannot be regularly and systematically carried on due to the lack of railway transport. The goods traffic other than those covered by priority certificates have very little chance.

Sir, we are living under abnormal conditions and it may be necessary for us to move our population from one place to another in time of unexpected emergency. If ample and convenient transport facilities are not provided for in good time for human traffic, there will be utter confusion and misery. This is an important problem which should engage the serious and immediate attention of the Government.

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Year after year even during the normal period, we bring to your notice the growing difficulties in respect of shipping at our ports. Even last year, Sir, I drew the attention of this Honourable House to the fate of the port of Alleppey and showed how that natural port lies at the mercy of the representatives of the Conference Lines and those who generally handle freight from this coast. The situation has become more aggressive recently, when the responsibilities of a manufacturer and producer, of an exporter, of a representative of a Conference Line combined with the authority and duties attached to the office of the Deputy Controller of Shipping on this coast were handed over to a single individual. The danger to our ports must be apparent to all thinking men. Possibilities with which the situation is fraught reveal themselves. I do not propose, Sir, to pursue this matter any further at the moment, except reminding this Honourable House and through this House to the outside world that the exercise of a right which could inflict injury on another without provocation is immoral and unlawful. Sir, good faith is one thing; nasty developments are another.

Sir, I should like to take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Director of the Research Section of the University of Travancore to the concluding paragraph of a "Report on the Attributes and Preparation of Coconuts" published by the Empire Marketing Board. About the future prospects of coir, the Report concludes—

> "There is probably no industry in the world with greater wealth of raw materials untapped, no industry so ripe for the application of scientific method and research, no industry, where economic production of manufactured articles could be so accelerated by more careful treatment of raw materials."

I confidently trust that these findings will open the eyes of the Head of the Research Department of the University and that he will henceforth devote a part of his precious time on cocoanut and its products, as I feel that it is high time for us to realise that a very large proportion of the industrial labour of Travancore—whether cottage, workshop or factory—depends upon the coir industry for their every day demands.

Owing to the peculiar economic conditions of this maritime State, our postwar economic problems are going to be of such a character, which should be solved by ourselves and ourselves alone. The postwar economic Travancore expects and demands conclusions, which, by removing the present and future apparent and real difficulties and drawbacks, will enable her to settle down to constructive work with confidence. Government with the close co-operation of all economic interests should tackle this question and be prepared to face a very difficult postwar economic world.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Sir, I commend this Budget for two reasons, first as a conservative budget and second as the Financial Secretary has had the courage to carry to reserve the surplus of Rs. 24 lakhs of revenue. No doubt the taxpayer might grumble. He

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has a right to say—I am paying over much. Whether he pays directly or indirectly, the money goes from his purse. He would naturally be entitled to demand some sort of return. But, however, the Financial Secretary thinks, and rightly so, that our future position must be made secure. I therefore have very great pleasure in commending that part of the Budget to this House.

But, however, though it is a prosperity budget, though we have a surplus, the Financial Secretary has thought it necessary to impose an additional cess upon the Rubber industry. There seems to be some misconception or misunderstanding about the position of the rubber industry in Travancore. The Financial Secretary seems to suppose that the burden would fall on the capitalist. Mr. Janardanan Pillay seems to think that the increased burden would be borne by the buyer. The price of rubber was fixed by Government, originally at 61 cents per pound and later at 71. The cost of production is very high and the possible profit that the grower might receive would be near six annas per pound. Certainly it is the grower that has to bear the burden for the simple reason that prices have been fixed and controlled. The Financial Secretary seemed to suppose that rubber growers are all capitalists. If he goes into facts and figures he will find that the majority of the growers are not capitalists but are only holders of one, two or at most ten acres and these certainly cannot be classed as capitalists.

In considering the question as to whether the taxpayer is getting any adequate return, I find that there is an increase of about a lakh of rupees for Education i. e., on lands and buildings—for Public Health and Sanitation very little, towards Medical and Ayurveda still less, towards Water Supply almost next to nothing.

But the main point for consideration now is the food problem. Last year at budget time I called the attention of the House to the fact that at any time, our line of supply from Burma might be cut off. We find now that it has become an actual fact. From a calculation on the basis of the proportion you gave us the other day, I find that Travancore and Cochin together are entitled to about 220,000 tons of rice from the Madras Province and Travancore's share might be about 165,000 tons and not more as has been supposed. In 1115 we imported about 285,000 tons of rice and about 20,000 tons of paddy. In 1116, as our harvests were good, we imported obout 225,000 tons of rice and about ten or fifteen thousand tons of paddy, so that any way we shall have a shortage of not less than 75,000 tons. We have once again to appeal to the Madras Government to allow us an adequate quota.

(At this stage the President and Sir Henry Craik left the House and the Deputy President took the Chair.)

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MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR : With a deficit of 75,000 tons how are we to carry on ? We have to eke it out with our tapioca. It may be gratifying to the House to learn that every available piece of land in the State where tapioca can be grown has been taken up. If it is not grown every where it is not because there is not land enough but because there are not enough cuttings. Such cuttings as exist have been utilised. The rains too have been bountiful and we may expect a very fine crop in the course of the next six or seven months.

While on this subject, I wish to refer to the export trade in tapioca flour which has arisen. The current is very slow now, but it may gather momentum and at any time our food problem might be dangerously affected. It has been pronounced by the Dewan that at present he is not going to think of stemming the tide as it has great future potentialities. But I would advise Government that at least they may watch and wait. If the export current becomes strong and gathers force and endangers the food problem, then Government is bound to step in and at least plaster it with an export duty sufficient to conserve adequate food supply within Travancore. But that again is nothing. With a few hundred or even a few thousand tons of tapioca our food problem cannot be solved.

We have been neglecting the greatest food asset we have in Travancore. I have called the attention of this House on more than one occasion to our fisheries. With our long sea board, our inland waters, our rivers, streams and swamps, if we take to pisciculture i, e., production of fish on a large scale, there is no possibility of Travancore facing a shortage of food. Starvation will be impossible. Two years back we had a Fisheries Department. Even now on paper we have a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. But where are the fisheries now? From being a department of production, it seems to have dissolved, evaporated and pisciculture has been transmuted into a Chair of Icthyology in the University. An expert was got down and soon after, it was found that pisciculture was not possible in Travancore and the expert himself took shelter within the seclusion of the University. That certainly is not a commendable state of things. Countries like Nova Scotia and Newfoundland have been and are entirely dependent on their fisheries. Japan makes up a major portion of its food from fish. Countries like Norway and the United Kingdom are also dependent on their fisheries to a large extent. This is one of the great assets we have and it is going undeveloped and unexploited. If, therefore, starvation faces us at any time we have only ourselves to thank.

Passing on to the Agricultural Department, this is the one department that has to be more than encouraged at present. Yet we find that it has been starved with a bare Rs. 1.60,000. There has been a lot of talk about extensive and intensive cultivation. How is intensive cultivation possible without fertilisers and wherefrom are we to get them now? We want potash, nitrates and phosphates. We cannot import these from outside and we produce little. No doubt the

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honourable Financial Secretary says that sixteen manure depots have been opened for the sale of manure. But what do these depots contain? I would ask him in his reply to tell us definitely what they contain and how much. And what does the department propose to do after the existing stocks are consumed? Something has got to be done. We want more than depots. We want factories for the manufacture of fertilisers. Not one or two but a good number; and if only the Financial Secretary would be good enough to think of investing some of his surplus on reproductive schemes like these, and on short term credit for agriculture, he would help to find a solution of the food problem and the problem of finding investment for reserves.

The House rose for lunch at 1 P. M. and re-assembled at 2 P. M., the Deputy President presiding.

Sir, I was at the subject of intensive cultivation and fertilisers. I put the question, how are we to get the necessary nitrates and phosphates needed for the manufacture of fertilisers. There are one or two sources open to us for nitrates. We have oil cakes in our country. Tons of oil cakes are available all over Travancore. These have been allowed to be exported duty free. It is the duty of the Government, as well as of this House to press upon Government, the absolute necessity of placing an export duty on oil cakes so that this, the only source of nitrates we have, may be conserved within Travancore. Coming to phosphates, Sir, there are plenty of bones here from which phosphates could be derived. The one thing wanted is the establishment of a factory. It may not be necessary for the Financial Secretary to find funds. If only Government would provide the necessary technical help and machinery, private agencies may easily be found to finance and take up the work. In this way, the problem of phosphates could be satisfactorily solved.

In this connection, I should like to say a word about the non-responsive attitude attributed to the Peermade Planters. It was said that the Peermade Planters could have taken to the cultivation of potatoes and like tubers and thereby added to the food resources of the State. Some of us in fact tried and failed. "It is better to have tried and lost than never to have tried at all". We were up against an advancing hoard of invaders against whom we had no weapons—I mean wild pigs. We tried and tried but they were too many for us. We were also up against our friends the Game Warden and the Conservator of Forests. One other fact is that when large areas are taken up and the sod broken, the miasmic vapours bring malaria of a virulent kind against which we have no remedy. The Public Health authorities tell us that they have no quinine. My friend the honourable member Mr. Tolson referred to this aspect of the matter. The only countries that produce quinine in large quantities are Java and Sumatra. They are now enemy territory. The British Government relied on these islands—they placed all their eggs in one basket—and now we can't get quinine even if we pay ten times the old price. Nevertheless, we are prepared to try again.

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Passing from that subject to the immediate future, it was observed by the Financial Secretary that we may have lean years before us, though now we are getting boom prices. A boom is always followed by a slump. How far the present boom is going to carry us, no one can say. This boom is the result of frenzied purchases on account of the war. The issue of large quantities of paper money in British India might also be one cause. Though we are only at the beginning stage now, a real boom in prices may manifest itself. A boom in prices spells the release of a lot of purchasing power and that means higher prices all round. The cost of living would go up. The services which are paid in money would be the worst sufferers. It is at times such as these that we might feel the absence, though temporary, of a descerning statesman from our midst.

I come next to the future. It is absolutely certain that after the war, there will be a long period of depression, not the ordinary depression such as we faced in the post-war period after the last great war. It is going to be a deeper depression. The last war touched only the fringe of Europe. The present war ranges over the whole world. It is not a mere case of the shattering of wealth but the utter devastation and destruction of wealth, so much of it as to be very difficult, if not impossible of restoration. When so much of wealth has been devastated where is the purchasing power of the world? Who will be able to purchase our commercial crops? Our trade is dependant on international conditions. The foundations of International trade have been shaken. Economics has got to be re-written. The Trade cycle and similar theories have been exploded. The value of metallic currency becomes doubtful. Very recently America has been considering the question of utilising silver and gold for industrial purposes. What about the exchange problem of the future? Can we say that the capitalist state of society of the present day might survive? All that will be treading on dangerous ground. I would leave these matters with great diffidence to the consideration of wiser, heads—to our elderly Finance Secretary who no doubt will keep a watchful eye on passing conditions.

If there be one thing we can do for the moment, it is to turn to methods of economy towards the future. This leads me to the subject of the Civil Service. It swallows more than one-third of the revenues of the State. I do not grudge high salaries where necessary. The services are certainly overmanned, if not overpaid. It requires three men to do the work of one. I can illustrate it by referring to my own department the department with which I have been connected for over forty-four years. What one officer was doing is now done by several. Let us start by putting our own house in order. We should not wait for a Geddis axe or an Inchcape knife. All possible economy must be started early. Economy must be the watchword in all spheres of activity. By so doing it may be possible for Travancore to keep within bounds and expend only as much as is required from the income. The question arises how are we to get 280 lakhs for the expenses of the future. Customs revenue will have dwindled. So also Excise revenue and

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many other items. How are we to meet "the growing needs of a progressive administration ?" We find the same or similar terms in every Budget. It can only mean that no definite reasons can be assigned for additional expenditure. In future, the smaller the political unit, the greater will be its economic difficulties. We shall have to think in terms of self-sufficiency. We shall not be able to find markets for our Tea, Pepper, and like commercial crops. We shall have to fall back on our Rice and Tapioca. Such is our position.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know whether the honourable member has any idea of the export duty levied on rubber in Ceylon ?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I have.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: May I know what the rate will be ?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I am not now in a position to give the exact figure.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, let me, in the first place, offer my sincere congratulations to the Financial Secretary for he very lucid exposition of the Budget estimates and the programme of expenditure for the ensuing year. At this critical juncture of alarming international situation, it is a matter for sincere gratification to find that the Government have been able to present a surplus budget for an amount of Rs. 5.90 lakhs. My congratulations are due not because that a surplus budget is presented to us but because of the fact that Government have been able to do so not by starving the normal requirements of a progressive administration or by crippling the usual measures of amelioration in relief of distress, but by the careful conservation of our resources without imposing on the poor tax payer the burden of any new taxation and also without impairing efficiency. Sir, the only proposal for additional taxation during the next year is by increasing the cess on rubber from B. Rs. 1 to B. Rs. 1—8 per cwt. from 1-1-1118. It is expected by Government that this would bring in an additional revenue of about Rs. 2 lakhs. According to me there is every justification for this additional imposition and I fully trust that the rubber industry will accept this new imposition without any demur.

It is seen from the Financial Secretary's speech that the Government are considering whether a new duty may not be levied on timber exported from the State.

Sir, for more reasons than one that is a move in the right direction—whether further development in the present situation would necessitate such a course or not and I would only request that the Government may be pleased to bring this proposal under contemplation into effect next year itself.

The proposal to open an Industrial Machinery Show Room deserves commendation by the poor and the rich alike in so far as it will certainly give a practical stimulus to all those who are anxiously interested in the development of small scale as also the advanced cottage industries in the State. The specimens of machinery that will be exhibited in this show-room will be of substantial help in the selection and starting of suitable type of industries in accordance with one's own peculiar conditions and other enviornments.

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While congratulating the Government on their having been pleased to make a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs in the next year's Budget for a grant of dearness allowance of one rupee per mensum to the low paid subordinates in the public service drawing a pay of less than Rs. 15 I am constrained to observe that this is not at all a satisfactory or adequate provision in the present circumstances. I think that all will admit the fact that the adverse effects of the last war were not so acutely and directly felt or experienced by the people of Travancore, as in this great perilous war. So my submission is that at least a similar provision may be made now also. I would suggest that a suitable provision may be made for the grant of a dearness allowance to all the low-paid subordinates in the public service who are drawing a monthly salary of up to Rs. 50. I am not unaware of the financial implications of this proposition. But Sir, as this is an unavoidable contribution to the relief of distress, I request the Government that they may be pleased if necessary to draw upon the reserve of Rs. 5 lakhs which the Government have ear-marked for emergency.

I may be permitted in this connection to bring to your pointed attention a very important fact, namely, that the Dewan of Mysore while introducing the budget on the 1st June 1942 in the Representative Assembly there made a very strong plea for the remission of tribute that is paid by that State to the Government of India. You are well aware that our position is entirely different. We are paying the annual subsidy to British Government not as the result of any conquest. The payment of tribute by this State to the Government of India originated in the shape of consideration for stationing a British Regiment in this State and it is known to all of us that it is many many years since that Regiment was withdrawn from the State without our asking for the same. My submsision is that the consideration for the payment of subsidy by this State has ceased to exist.....

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: Sir, I rise to a point of order. I would like to know if the member is entitled to speak on this subject.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The honourable member will proceed.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Since it is only a civil contract between two Governments and since the consideration of the contract has ceased to exist, I would request that Government may be pleased to take the earliest step for making a legitimate demand to the British Government for the refund of the whole amount that was paid by the State from the time of the withdrawal of the British Regiment from this State and also for the abolition of the subsidy in its entirety in future. By making this observation I do not at all wish to embarass the Government of India in any way at this critical juncture. But I am compelled to make this statement on account of my anxiety to bring this aspect of the question to your pointed attention for taking the necessary action in the interests of the State.

Another point which I wish to urge upon your attention is this. I wish to make it perfectly clear that a serious situation has been brought about in the country by the extension of service to certain class of Government servants who have attained the age of fifty-five.

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The proposal has created unrest and dissatisfaction in the minds of the educated unemployed youth and also in the minds of those already in service who are waiting for promotions. I see no justification for this extension of service which, as it is, is lacking both in principle and equity. Therefore, Sir, I would request that Government will be pleased to cancel this order and to restore the old order of things.

It is seen from paragraph 26 of the Financial Secretary's speech that provision has been made in the next year's budget for a scheme for the better and more efficient administration of the Medical Department by the appointment of District Officers. According to me this has now become an indispensable necessity on account of the exclusion of the Sub Assistant Surgeons in charge of the District Dispensaries in the State from the list of the Gazetted Officers, and thus making it obligatory that the salary bills of these officers from one end of the State to the other, should be passed by the Surgeon General alone. Moreover I welcome this measure because by periodical inspection of these institutions by the District Medical Officers, I fully believe that the administrative efficiency of these institutions will be enhanced considerably.

But Sir, connected with this proposal, I may be permitted to remark that the policy of Government in bringing into existence new schemes and abolishing the same after some time for reasons quite unknown to the public very often in accordance with the whims and fancies of Departmental Heads due to personal or communal considerations or hatred.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The honourable member has got three minutes more.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Let us look back to the history of the creation of the separate Maramath and Irrigation Divisions and the appointment of the Maramath and Irrigation Executive Engineers for the better carrying out of the Maramath and Irrigation works. Let us also look back to the history of the creation of a separate specialists' cadre in the Medical Department and its successful working for a number of years. What has become of these schemes subsequently. One fine morning the Surgeon-General was able to abolish the specialists' cadre. So my submission is that before bringing into effect any new scheme, the Government must be fully aware of its consequences and they should be prepared to maintain the continuity of the policy which they have adumbrated once.

I am constrained to remark that the affairs of the Ceramic Factory at Kundara are most hopelessly mismanaged by the Ceramic Expert. This is a very serious matter as it is a scheme on which the capital investment at the end of 1117 will be Rs. 11,21,800 and also as the scheme is one which has bright future in point of revenue. For elucidating my point, I may be permitted to read a paragraph from page

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119 of the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts for the year 1115. It says —

"Irregularities in the Ceramic Factory. In respect of the Ceramic Factory works the following points were raised : —

(i) In the case of one particular work the actual expenditure till the end of 1115 was nearly double the estimate sanctioned by Government. Nearly double the quantity of rubble required was stocked. Though the contractor for this work agreed to execute the work at a rate which was 5 per cent less than the rates as per his agreement, no reduction was made from his bills on this account.

(ii) Another work with a total estimate of Rs. 38,967-21-1 was carried out mainly on "Petty job system". More bricks than were actually required were supplied and transport charges were incurred for bringing bricks to the site.

(iii) Fire bricks were manufactured for the construction of furnaces for the factory. But no out-turn account was kept for the same. No register or Inventory of Plant and machinery was kept.

(iv) In general, heavy payments were made by the Ceramic Expert in the absence of sufficient balance as per the cash book. These were explained to have been met from private funds with a view to defray the the cost of labour employed departmentally. On verification it was found that payments were, however, made to contractors also on the same dates.

These have been pointed out to Government and the explanation of the Departmental Officer is awaited."

When I raised this question in the Public Accounts Committee the answer given by the Chairman of that Committee was that the whole question was under the active consideration of Government. It is high time for the Government to take the whole matter into their serious consideration and see that at least the administrative control of the Ceramic Factory is taken away from the present Expert. I am equally at a loss to understand how long this matter is going to be under the *active consideration* of Government. So I request that Government will be pleased to place the management of this Factory on a better and satisfactory footing immediately.

As the Financial Secretary has characterised the budget as a war budget, I do not at all wish to complain about the insufficiency of the provisions made therein for nation-building activities during the next year. But, Sir, we have got very serious complaints against the deliberate omission to carry out the works for which there are provisions made in the current year's budget. We have also got very serious complaints against the deliberate omission for not including in the next year's budget any provision for works for which there is provision in the current year's budget but which were not yet taken up on account of the dereliction of the duties of the Departmental officers concerned. As it is a matter that was sufficiently discussed on the floor of the House yesterday, I do not wish to speak much about that matter. As an instance of the kind I would refer to item 13 in appendix (e) of the current year's budget.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Your time is up.

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PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: My submission is that Government be pleased to make it a point to see at least those works for which provision is made in the budget are carried out during that year itself. With these observations I close my remarks.

MR. N. NARAYANAKURUP: സർ, മനുഷ്യക്കെന്നപോലെ രാജ്യങ്ങൾക്കും ദശാസന്ധികൾ ഉണ്ട്. വഞ്ചിരാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ശുക്രദശയാരംഭിച്ചിട്ട്, കൊല്ലം ആറു കഴിഞ്ഞു. ൧൧൧൧-ാമാണ്ടു ൨,൯൫,൦൧൬ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വരവും, ൨൯൫൯൶൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്ന നമ്മുടെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ്, ൧൧൧൨-ാമാണ്ടിൽ ൩൦൫൶൪൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വരവും, ൩൦൫൨ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവും ഉള്ളതായിരുന്നു. ഈയുദ്ധാപരിതഃസ്ഥിതിയിൽ പോലും ൩൨൭൶൫൯ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവു ചെയ്യത്തക്കവണ്ണം നമ്മുടെ വരവ്, ൩൯൦൶൩ ലക്ഷം രൂപയാണ്. ആറുകൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു ൭൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപയോളം വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം രാജ്യത്തെ ഭരണം നടത്തുന്ന ദിവാൻജി എന്നത്തേക്കും നമ്മുടെ കൃതജ്ഞത അർഹിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ൧൧൧൧-നുശേഷം വരവ് ൭൦ ലക്ഷം വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, ഭൂനികുതി ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നുകാണുന്നതു് ചാരിതാർത്ഥ്യജനകം തന്നെ.

ശുക്രദശാകാലത്തിൽ ആറുകൊല്ലം നീക്കി, ശേഷിച്ച ൫൪ കൊല്ലംകൂടി ഇപ്പോൾ ശുക്രദശയനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി നമ്മെ ഭരിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം, മുതലെടുപ്പിൽക്കൂടി നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം നാട്ടു രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ പ്രഥമസ്ഥാനം അലങ്കരിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു് നിർവിവാദമാണ്. ൧൧൨൨-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഉണ്ടാക്കിയതിൽ ഫിനാഷ്യൽ സിക്രട്ടറിയെ അനുമോദിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. വരവുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ചെലവിനു കണക്കുണ്ടാക്കാൻ ആർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്.

൧൧൧൦-ൽ ൩൦൫൶൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വരവുവന്നതിന്റെ കണക്കു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ കാണുന്നു. ൧൧൧൦-ലെ ആദ്യപത്തുമാസത്തെ വരവായ ൨൨൭൶൯൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപയും, ൧൧൧൯ അവസാനരണ്ടു മാസത്തെ വരവായ ൩൨൶൭൫ ലക്ഷംരൂപയും ചേർത്തുണ്ടായതാണു ൩൦൫൶൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ. ൧൧൧൯-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിലവസാനം, പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽനിന്നും ചിലവാക്കാതെ ലാപ്സാക്കിയ തുകയാണ് ൩൨൶൭൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപയെന്നും, ആ നിലയിലാണ്, ൩൦൫൶൪ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കാണിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നും തോന്നുന്നു,

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പബ്ലിക്കുവർക്സ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുതന്നെ ൨൫ ലക്ഷത്തിൽപരം രൂപാ തിരിയെ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ നിലയിലാണു വരവു കാണിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ, ഈ ൧൯൭൨ വു അവസാനത്തിനു ൪൦൦ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ വരവു കാണിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.

൧൯൭൨-നുശേഷം ൬൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ വരവു കൂടിയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, ചിലവിലും ൪൦ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കൂടിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. വരവുചിലവുകൾക്കു പൊരുത്തമെയില്ല. ചിലവു കുറച്ചുകൂടി കുറച്ച്, മിച്ചംവയ്ക്കുകയൊ, പൊതുവാവശ്യത്തിനു ചിലവാക്കി ജനങ്ങളെ സഹായിക്കയൊ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഭക്ഷ്യസാധനങ്ങൾക്ക് വില. ഇരട്ടിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ താഴ്ന്ന ശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ൪൦ രൂപയിൽ കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൻറെ ൨൫ ശതമാനംകൂടി, അലവൻസായി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയും ൧൯൭൨-ലെ പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള കൂഡായിൽ സമയകാലത്തു മിതമായ വിലയ്ക്കു കിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തിൽ കൃഷിവേലകൾ നടത്താതിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ നെല്ലു കിട്ടുമൊ എന്നുള്ള കാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും പറയുന്നതിനു ഞാൻ രണ്ടു അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയങ്ങൾ അയച്ചിരുന്നു. കൂഡായിൽ സംഭരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ദിവാൻപ്രസിഡൻറ് പറഞ്ഞതുകൊണ്ട, അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ ഒന്നുംതന്നെ പറയുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ ൪൦ രൂപയിൽ കുറഞ്ഞ ശമ്പളക്കാർക്കു, നാലു ഇടങ്ങഴി അരിയുടെ വിലക്കുള്ള ഒരു രൂപാ കൊടുക്കാമെന്നുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറു മനോഭാവം നന്നല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു പ്രയോജനമില്ല. പത്തുലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചെലവുവന്നാലും അവശ്യാനുസരണം അവരെ സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ചിലവിനുതക്കവണ്ണം വരവുണ്ടാക്കാനറിയാവുന്ന ദിവാൻജി ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ പിശുക്കു കാണിക്കയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കയും അവസരമറിഞ്ഞു താഴ്ന്ന ശമ്പളക്കാരെയും, ദുരമായ ഗ്രെയിൻ വാങ്ങുന്നവരേയും സഹായിക്കണമെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI : ൪൦ രൂപാ പ്രതിമാസം കിട്ടാത്ത വക്കീലന്മാർ എത്രയുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ ?

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : ഇല്ലെന്നാണുവിശ്വാസം. അപ്രകാരം ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവർ സർക്കാർ സേവനം ചെയ്യുന്നവരല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് അവരാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടാൽ കൂടുതൽ ആദായം കിട്ടുന്ന മറ്റു വക്കീലന്മാർ അവർക്കു വേണ്ടതു സഹായം ചെയ്യുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

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[Mr. N. Narayana Kurup.]

ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ സുഭിക്ഷമാക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണ് ഇന്നു ഗവ മ്മെൻറിൻെറ ലക്ഷ്യമെന്നു കാണുന്നതു സന്തോഷകരമാണ്. ആ ലക്ഷ്യത്തിലെത്തണമെങ്കിൽ, വനം വകുപ്പും, കൃഷിവകുപ്പും, സഹകരണ വകുപ്പും, പബ്ലിക്കുവർക്ക്സിലെ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വകുപ്പും, ഭൂനികുതിവകുപ്പും ഏകോപിച്ചു ശ്രമിക്കണം. ജലസേചന മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചവരെ ഒഴിപ്പിച്ചു്, ശരിയാക്കുന്നതിനും, ഒഴിപ്പിച്ചാൽ ഉടൻ അവ പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും ഭൂനികുതി വകുപ്പും ഇറിഗേഷൻവകുപ്പും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. പലവിധത്തിൽ ജോലിയുള്ള എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവു് ഇൻജിനീയറന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ ഇറിഗേഷൻ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇറിഗേഷൻ വകുപ്പു പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവു് ഇൻജിനീയരുടെ കീഴിലാക്കി വിഭജിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നപ്പോൾ നടത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള ജോലികളുടെ പത്തിലൊരംശം ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഇറിഗേഷൻ വകുപ്പു പ്രത്യേകം ഒരു എക്സിക്യൂട്ടീവു് ഇൻജിനീയരുടെ കീഴിലാക്കി തീർക്കണം. എന്തു ചിലവുവന്നാലും അതുടനടി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണം.

ഇതിനും പുറമെ, കുമിളി—വണ്ടൻമേട് റോഡിൻെറ പാർശ്വത്തിലും പള്ളിവാസലിലും വട്ടവടയും ഉള്ള ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങളും മറ്റും നെൽക്കൃഷിക്കു പാട്ടത്തിനുകൊടുക്കണം. വട്ടവടയിൽ ഗോതമ്പു ഒരു മേനി വിളയുമെന്നും മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നെല്ലു ഒരു മേനി വിളയുമെന്നും അപ്രകാരം ഒരു ലക്ഷം ഏക്കറിൽ വിളയിക്കാമെന്നും പറയുന്നു. ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ അപ്രകാരം കൊടുക്കണം. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും വളവും വിത്തും കൊടുത്തു സഹായിക്കണം. സഹകരണസംഘങ്ങൾ മുഖം പ്രചരണവും കൃഷിയും നടത്തി സാധാരണ ജനങ്ങളുടെ വരവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണം. സഹകരണസംഘങ്ങളുടെ സജീവമായ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനു ഒരു പ്രത്യേക വിദഗ്ദ്ധനെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷനാക്കണം. ഇന്നത്തെ ഡയറക്ടർ ഉൗർജ്ജസ്വലനും സമർത്ഥനും ആണെങ്കിലും ജോലിയുടെ ക്രൂതൽകൊണ്ടു ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു രണ്ടിനുംകൂടി മതിയായ സമയം കിട്ടുകയില്ല.

ഇതിനും പുറമെ നമ്മുടെ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾ ശരിയായ തുറമുഖങ്ങളിലും വിപണികളിലും എത്തിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഗതാഗതസൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ചിലവു നോക്കാതെ ഉണ്ടാക്കണം. മലഞ്ചരക്കുകൾ ആലപ്പുഴയിൽ എത്തിക്കുന്നതിനു എളുപ്പമുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന അന്ധലപ്പുഴ—തിരുവല്ലാ റോഡു പണിതുടങ്ങിയിട്ടു പതിനഞ്ചുകൊല്ലമായി. ഇനിയും ൧,൨൫,൦൦൦ രൂപകൂടിയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ശേഷിച്ച ൨ മയിൽ കൂടിതീരും. അപ്പോൾ ചങ്ങനാശേരി

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യിൽനിന്നും ൨ ൫ മയിൽ ദൂരംകൊണ്ടു കരമാർഗ്ഗം സാധനങ്ങൾ ആല പ്പുഴയെത്തും. ആ ചിലവു വഹിക്കുന്നതിനു സന്മനസ്സു തോന്നാതെ ഉദ്ദേശം ൧൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചിലവു വരുന്നതും പത്തുകൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു പോലും തീരാത്തതുമായ ആലപ്പുഴ ചങ്ങനാശേരി റോഡും തോട്ടു മുഖപ്പെട്ട ഒരു ജോലിക്കു ൫൦,൦൦൦ രൂപ തൽക്കാലമായിട്ടനുവദിച്ചു് ൨൦,൦൦൦ രൂപാ ൧൯൨൫-ലെ ചിലവിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ആലപ്പുഴയിൽനിന്നും ചങ്ങനാശേരിക്കു ൨൫ മയിൽ ദൂരമുള്ള ഒരു ജല മാർഗ്ഗം ഇപ്പോഴുണ്ടു്. പുതിയ സ്കീംപ്രകാരം റോഡും തോട്ടം വന്നാൽ ദൂരം ൧൭ മൈലാകും. ൧൫ ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ചെലവാക്കി ഏട്ടുമയിൽ ദൂരം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിൽഭേദം ഒന്നര ലക്ഷം രൂപാമാത്രം ചിലവാക്കി ഒരു പഴയ റോഡു ശരിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതാണു്. എന്റെ ഭവനത്തിനടുത്തുകൂടി പോകുന്നതാണു് ചങ്ങനാശേരി—ആലപ്പുഴ റോഡുംതോട്ടമെങ്കിലും ആ ചങ്ങലപ്പുഴ—തിരുവല്ലാ റോഡു പൂർത്തിയാക്കുന്നതാണു് ആവശ്യവും ലാഭ കരവും എന്നും അതു പൂർത്തിയാക്കുന്നതിനുടൻ തന്നെ തുകയനു വദിക്കണമെന്നും അതിൽ വൈമനസ്യം പാടില്ലെന്നും ഗവണ്മെന്റിനെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

കുട്ടനാട്ടിൽ ഉള്ള പുഞ്ചനിലങ്ങളെല്ലാം ഒരുപോലെ നിലങ്ങളാണു്. അടിക്കടി ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കംമൂലം മേടകൃഷി കഴിഞ്ഞുള്ള ചെന്നല്ലുകൃഷി നടത്താൻ സാധ്യമല്ല. തോട്ടപ്പള്ളിയിൽ ഒരു പൊഴിയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സ്കീം നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തിയാൽ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കത്തിന്റെ കാഠിന്യം കുറയുന്നതും പലസ്ഥലത്തും ചെന്നെല്ലു കൃഷിയിറക്കി കൂടുതൽ നെല്ലു വിളയിക്കാവുന്നതും ആകുന്നു. ഈ മാതിരി കായ്ച്ചുരംകുപണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നതു ഒരു നഷ്ടമാകുകയില്ല. പുഞ്ചകൃഷിക്കു ശരിയായ വളം നിലങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളത്തിന്റെ ഒഴുക്കിൽകൂടി കയറേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. തലവടിയാറിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി അതിനു തടസ്സം നേരിടുവിക്കുന്നു. പല ഇടത്തോടുകളും ഉണങ്ങിപ്പോകുന്നു. ചക്കളംമുക്കു മുറിച്ചു് ആ നദിയുടെ ഒഴുക്കു വിഛിന്നപ്പെടുത്താതെ അയക്കുന്നെങ്കിൽ കുട്ടനാടൻ പുഞ്ചകളിലെ വിളവു വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. അതിലേയ്ക്കു ൨൦,൦൦൦ രൂപയുടെ ഒരടങ്കൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിനാൽ ഈ രണ്ടു കായ്ച്ചുരംകുകളിലും വേണ്ടതു നിഷ്കർഷ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ കടമയും മുമ്പതമായുമാകുന്നു.

കുട്ടനാട്ടുകാർക്കു കുടിക്കുന്നതിനു ശുദ്ധജലമില്ല. അവർക്കു റോഡില്ല. ശിശുസംരക്ഷണകേന്ദ്രങ്ങളില്ല. തോടുകളിൽകൂടി യാത്രചെയ്യുന്നതിനു രാത്രി കാലങ്ങളിൽ വെളിച്ചമില്ല. അവർ കൊടുക്കുന്ന കരത്തിനു കുറ

[Mr. N. Narayana Kurup]

വുമില്ല. അവരുടെ ജലാശയങ്ങളിൽപോലും ബോട്ടുകൾ സഞ്ചരിക്കാൻ അനുവദിച്ച് കിടക്കുന്ന ജലം മലിനപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. അവരുടെ നില മേലേ പ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും ശുചീകരണത്തിനും കൂട്ടമായിട്ടിൽ ഒരു പബ്ലിക്കുഹെൽത്ത് യൂണിറ്റും ഓരോ പകുതികൾക്കും ഓരോ വില്ലേജ് യൂണിയനും സ്ഥാപിച്ച് സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അവക്ക് അടുത്തടുത്ത് ഗ്രാൻറ് വൈദ്യശാലകളെങ്കിലും അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അവശ സമുദായോദ്ധാരണാർത്ഥം ചെയ്യുന്ന സഹായങ്ങൾ ശ്ലാഘനീയങ്ങളാണെങ്കിലും അവ മതിയാകുന്നില്ല. സമർത്ഥനായ ഒരു സംരക്ഷകൻറെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷതയിൽ സചിവോത്തമൻറെ നിർദ്ദേശാനുസരണം ശരാശരി ഒന്നരലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഫണ്ടുമുതൽ ചിലവാക്കുന്നെങ്കിലും അതിൽ ഒരു ലക്ഷത്തിനകവും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനാകയാൽ അയൽ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ കാണുന്നതു പോലുള്ള ആകർഷണീയങ്ങളായ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ കാണുന്നില്ല. എന്തായാലും അവരുടെ നില ഉയർത്തുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ ഹോസ്റ്റലുകളും കാളനികളും പല മാറ്റങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

അവശസമുദായക്കാരായ വാലന്മാരുടെയും മുക്കുവന്മാരുടെയും കാര്യത്തിലും ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻറെ ദയാദൃഷ്ടി പതിയേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ചേർത്തല, പള്ളിപ്പുറം ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ ഊന്നിവല പതിപ്പിച്ച് ചെമ്മീൻ പിടിച്ചു വിറ്റുപജീവിച്ചുവരുന്ന ഫ ള ാ ം-ൽപരം കുടുംബക്കാരുണ്ട്. ചെമ്മീൻ വിപണിയായ റംഗ്രൂൺ ശത്രുകൈവശമായതോടുകൂടി ചെമ്മീൻവിൽപ്പനയില്ലാതായി, മുൻപറഞ്ഞ പാവങ്ങൾ പട്ടിണിയായി; കരംകൊടുക്കാനും മാർഗ്ഗമില്ലാതെവന്നു. അവരുടെ ഊന്നിവലകൾ പതിവു റദ്ദ്ചെയ്തു ലേലത്തിൽ വിറ്റുതുടങ്ങി; കരത്തിനു കർശന നടപടിയുമായി. അയൽരാജ്യമായ കൊച്ചിയിൽ അവരുടെ കരം പകുതി ഇളവുചെയ്തു. ഇവിടെ അവരുടെ കരം മുഴുവൻ ഇളവുചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തും, അവരുടെ ഊന്നിവലകളുടെ ലേലം അസ്ഥിരപ്പെടുത്തിയും വലകൾ പുനഃസ്ഥാപിച്ചും അവരെ സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകം അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു മത്സ്യവ്യവസായത്തിൽനിന്നും ഒരു നല്ല വരവുണ്ടാക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണ്. ആ വകുപ്പു യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയുടെ കീഴിലാക്കിയതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു വലുതായ ഒരുതെറ്റു പറ്റിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിക്കു വാണിജ്യപരമായ പ്രവർത്തനമില്ല. ഒരു പക്ഷേ മത്സ്യ,

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സംബന്ധമായ ഗവേഷണങ്ങളും യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തിരുന്നാലും അതിന്റെ ഭരണത്തിനു യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റി പ്രാപ്തിയല്ല. മത്സ്യവകുപ്പു് പ്രത്യേകം തിരിച്ചു ഒരു ഡിറക്ടറുടെ കീഴിലാക്കി പ്രവർത്തനം തുടങ്ങിയാൽ ആ വ്യവസായം മൂലം കുറഞ്ഞതു രണ്ടുലക്ഷം രൂപയെങ്കിലും നമുക്കുണ്ടാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ആ കാര്യത്തിലും ചിലവു നോക്കാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യണമെന്നാണെന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ഇന്നു അരി മണ്ണെണ്ണ മുതലായ അത്യാവശ്യസാധനങ്ങളും കിട്ടുന്നതിനു സാമാന്യ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇതു കൂട്ടുന്നതിനല്ലാതെ മാർഗ്ഗവും കാണുന്നില്ല, ആ നില മാറണമെങ്കിൽ, സാമാന്യ ജനങ്ങളെ സഹായിക്കണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഉദ്ദേശമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട പല സ്ഥലത്തും അരി, മണ്ണെണ്ണ ഇവ വിൽക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഡിപ്പോകൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറു തുറക്കുകയും അവ സ്റ്റാക്കുചെയ്തു, കച്ചവടക്കാരോടു വാങ്ങിയോ വിൽക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതാണു്. അതിനു തൽക്കാലികമായി വരാവുന്ന ചിലവും നഷ്ടവും, അതു ചെയ്താലുണ്ടാകുന്ന ലാഭവും പുണ്യവുമായി ഒരന്തരവുമില്ലാത്തതാണു്. ഓരോ പകുതികളിലും ഓരോ ഡിപ്പോകൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതു ഉത്തമമായിരിക്കും. മണ്ണെണ്ണ വില നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചതിനു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ഒരു തെറ്റു പറ്റിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. മണ്ണെണ്ണ പാട്ടകൂടാതെ ർ ശ്രീ. ഫർ അ. ന പൈസക്കു വിൽക്കണമെന്നും ചില്ലറക്കച്ചവടക്കാർ ഫർ ഔണ്സുകുപ്പിക്കു അഞ്ചരചക്രം വച്ചു വിൽക്കണമെന്നും നിർദ്ദേശിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ആ വിൽപ്പനയിൽ ചില്ലറക്കച്ചവടക്കാർക്കു പാട്ട എണ്ണ വിറ്റാൽ കിട്ടുന്നതു ഫസറ ചക്രമാണു. എന്നാൽ എണ്ണവില നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു ഫർ ഠ ചക്രമായിട്ടുമാണു. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശം യാതൊരു കണക്കും നോക്കാതെ ആരോ പറഞ്ഞതു വിശ്വസിച്ചു് ചെയ്തതാണെന്നു പ്രത്യക്ഷമാണു്.

(Deputy President's bell)

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, I beg to submit that yesterday the President was pleased to tell us that those who have tabled adjournment motions will be given some more time.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: He said that they will be given preference.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: I will finish in five minutes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I can allow you one minute more.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP; Then I rise to a point of order.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no point of order.

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MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : മറ്റു പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെപ്പറ്റിയും പ്രതിപാദിക്കാനുണ്ടെങ്കിലും സമയമില്ലെന്നു സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്ന മണിനാദം ഇടയ്ക്കിടെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷപീഠത്തിൽനിന്നും പുറപ്പെട്ടതിനു ശേഷവും വാക്കുമൂലം നിരോധനംകൂടി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ തൽക്കാലം പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvella*) : Sir, first I may deal with the subject on which I had given notice of an adjournment motion, namely, putting a stop to the export of tapioca from Travancore. The Dewan-President said that.....

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI : A point of order. Is it permissible to refer to the President of this House as Dewan-President ? If it is the Council I can understand that, because under Rule 5 the Dewan is ex-officio President.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The President here is usually referred to as Dewan-President. There is no harm in referring like that.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : The Dewan-President said the more tapioca that is exported, the more money will come into the country. We are often told by Government officers here that we should supplement the supply of food stuffs by cultivating tapioca on everyinch of available land. Newspapers sounded *encore* with appropriate headlines and catching captions on these pronouncements of eminent statesmen like Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar. The use of fish with tapioca was also widely canvassed. Along with these articles and speeches on the qualities of tapioca and fish there came the news that Kottarakara was going to have a tapioca flour factory.

(At this stage 2-50 P. M. the President resumed the Chair.)

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : The result was that tapioca, an essential article of local food, became a common commodity for export abroad. The talk here is that tapioca flour to the tune of 200 tons per day is being exported from Travancore. Of course, we should not forget that there is another side for the picture. That is money comes into the country as price of what we export. As far as I know, never has Travancore lived on nickel, copper, silver or currency notes.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI : Is there any other country which has lived on that ?

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : Sir, I am sorry that the Legal Remembrancer's general information is so poor.

PRESIDENT : Copper is used for medical purposes sometimes.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI : There is no greater travesty than man's food being converted for use as starch and size for the textiles of the mills in Ahemadabad and other places.

Tapioca which used to be sold to the poor at six pounds per chuckram now sells at the rate of one and a half to three pounds per chuckram. The low-paid Government servant with an income of

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Rs. 10 a month and having a wife and a family of two or three children to maintain, is feeling the pinch very severely. The day-labourer earning 7 or 8 chs. a day feels the pinch very severely. The Pariahs and the Pulayas whose toil fills the coffers and the granaries of the rich heave deep sighs and shed tears of blood. That is really the condition prevailing in many parts of Travancore. Tempting prices are offered to allure wholesale cultivators of tapioca by middle men who reap large profits. This really leads the country to famine, starvation and utter destruction. When there is scarcity of food in the country, there will arise here and there, cries of unrest and discontent, followed by rioting and even looting. There will be huge crowds coming out into the field carrying red flags and crying revolutionary communistic slogans. Sir, when the masses feel the real pangs of hunger and starvation, no police, nor any armed reserve, nor even the military, will be able to pacify them unless they resort to wholesale shooting or lathi and bayonet charges. Resorting to such courses is to give cause for revolution in the State.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala cum Agastisvaram*) மேம்பருடைய அபிப்பிராயம் மாச்சினிக்குக்கூட வழியில்லாதவர்களாக போலீஸும் பட்டாளத்திலும் சேர்ந்திருக்கிறார்கள்:

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Leaving the country to revolution is not the aim or policy of any good Government and particularly not of our Government.

Our Government which claims to have anticipated events for months and even years ahead have committed one blunder—and a gross blunder too.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Sir, may I know from the member if he means that if the export of tapioca is not stopped it will be leading to revolution?

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I am not a revolutionary.

Our Government which claims to have anticipated events even for months and even years ahead has committed one blunder, for they actively induced every man in the country to cultivate tapioca, and even sent round a circular asking for the cultivation of tapioca on all available space in the premises of all Government offices even. There is also a provision in one of the departments for an allowance of Rs. 5 for a Duffadar for supervising cultivation of tapioca in the office compound.

MR. DOMINIC JOSEPH: What is the mistake the Government committed?

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I am glad and thankful to have been reminded. The mistake committed was in their actively inducing the cultivation of tapioca as an article of local food and then passively allowing its export to countries abroad.

MR. DOMINIC JOSEPH: Is the member against the export of tapioca from the country?

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MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Yes, Sir, one word about the shortage of food. We have a Government which is managing a University on very good motives and running on excellent lines too, a Government which runs a commercial transport service, whether with a profit or at a loss we are not concerned with for the instant, a Government owning a clay factory whether for the sale of clay or for the manufacture of porcelain articles, a Government, which has an Agricultural department about whose real activities we hear something occasionally in those beautiful long speeches of its Director on the floor of the House often; such a Government must undertake to bring as much land as possible under cultivation and under its own auspices.

PRESIDENT: Does the honourable member suggest that Government should cultivate these lands and grow paddy?

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: That is exactly what I suggest. When we can have such departments as the Transport and the Clay factory spending money on them, my suggestion is that we can have also a department for the cultivation of paddy. If Government does that, they can have some real profit unlike the minus figures of the Transport and Clay undertaking. We have electricity and enough labour. We can make materials here or get them from outside. As much labour as is available could be employed and starvation and famine in the country avoided. As I have once before said on the floor of the House peace and prosperity at home are more important than publicity and prestige outside.

Sir, in short, what I suggest is that the export of tapioca from this country should be restricted, it should be stopped forthwith at least so long as the supply of food-stuffs remains as at present. If the Government does not have any sympathy with these suggestions particularly with regard to the export of tapioca, I can say it cannot justify its existence even for one moment.

I have a word about the Transport Department. There appears an excellent paragraph in the Financial Secretary's speech. That is paragraph 33, page 12.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member has one minute more.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I cannot even finish one sentence, within that time, Sir.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: Sir, it is gratifying to note that the revenue of the current year has reached the peak point of Rs. 3 crores. We must congratulate ourselves that our State has reached the third place in the matter of revenue, among the Indian States. The current year is expected to close with a surplus of Rs. 24·32 lakhs. The main increase in revenue is expected to be from customs, forests, taxes on income, railway etc. This is, as the Financial Secretary has said, due to a temporary phenomenon on account of the war situation. We are glad, Sir, that the Financial Secretary has realised this and has earmarked the surplus to be transferred to the revenue Reserve Fund to be utilised in case of emergency. Really speaking, I think it is not the Financial Secretary but it is the present war condition that is to be congratulated, if at all, for this years's increase in revenue.

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With regard to the Budget estimate for next year, the Financial Secretary has been cautious enough to estimate a moderate revenue. The total revenue is expected to be Rs. 290 lakhs and the total expenditure Rs. 285 lakhs, thus leaving a surplus of Rs 5 lakhs. This is estimated on the supposition that the conditions of to-day will continue throughout the next year. But in these times, when the war is coming nearer home, one cannot be sure how our finances will stand at the close of the next year. But let us hope, Sir, that at the end of next year our finances will reach another peak point, *i. e.*, more than Rs. 3 crores.

Sir, the most vital need of our country at present is the increased production of food-stuffs. Two adjournment motions were moved in this Assembly this year urging upon the necessity for adopting immediate measures for the increased production of paddy and other food-stuffs in the State so as to make the State self-sufficient if possible. Still, I am not sure whether the Agricultural Department has done all that is possible in this direction. It is not at all sufficient if a few meetings are asked to be held or a few speeches delivered or few manure depots started in some corner of the State. Sir, the Director of Agriculture is himself, if I may say so, an over-worked officer. He has to run to Madras, to Cochin, to Trichy, to Tanjore etc. to attend Rice Conferences: he has to run to Parur to attend a Co-operative Conference, and deliver lectures, and then again run to Nagercoil the next day to preside over a conference of agriculturists. He has to do all these things. I may suggest, Sir, that at least during the time of the present emergency when we require the full-time energies of an efficient officer like the present Director of Agriculture, he may be spared from his duties as the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The agricultural population is generally inert and lazy and it is only through sustained effort, guidance and encouragement that they can be asked to go forward. We have only to ask a few questions ourselves, to see whether we have made any advance in our agricultural policy. Has the size and distribution of the holdings become more effective? Does the agriculturist resort to intensive cultivation and the use of scientific manures? Does the agriculturist work more or less than he did formerly? Has his efficiency and skill increased? If these questions are satisfactorily answered, I think we can congratulate ourselves that we have made some headway. But with all our efforts, I doubt whether we can still make the country self-sufficient in the matter of rice. The 286,000 tons of rice that we used to import from Burma and Siam cannot be easily made up for, by any feeble attempt at extensive or intensive cultivation. We may be able to import some quantity from Tanjore, but that will not be sufficient for our needs.

In this connection I may say a few words about Soya Beans. Sir, you have been repeatedly telling us about the usefulness of the Soya bean. I am sorry that the agricultural department has not taken it with the seriousness that it deserves. Soya bean which has been recently introduced into India may form a valuable addition to the

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[MR. G. Velu Pillai.]

Indian dietary. This bean is the magic crop of the Chinese agriculture and has recently expanded extraordinarily into the United States and Soviet Russia. In India the bean is now grown successfully in Gujerat and in Sind. The protein content of the Soya bean is about twice that of meat and eggs and six times that of bread. It contains the three vitamins A, B, and D, all of which are deficient in the Indian vegetarian dietary. No pulse, gram or oil-seed contains fats and proteins to the same extent as the Soya bean. Certain biological tests have revealed that it is the best pulse known so far. It contains more digestible fat than linseed meal. Sir, recently the cultivation of Soya bean has grown to such a large extent in China that almost one-fourth of the Chinese total export trade is in Soya bean at present. Thus it is high time to try whether a large scale cultivation of Soya bean cannot be usefully adopted in Travancore also.

Next Sir, I wish to say a few words upon the exorbitant increase in the price of foodstuffs. I had also given notice of an adjournment motion about this subject. Sir, the prices of all essential commodities are increasing daily. They have already increased enormously. Fights between buyers before kerosene shops are a matter of frequent occurence. It is at this time that Government should come to the rescue of the poor man.

PRESIDENT: How? Would the member kindly explain? I am anxious to learn how Government may be expected to help in the matter of kerosene.

MR. G. VELOO PILLAI: I would suggest Sir, that the Agricultural department should make a country-wide propaganda about using other oils instead of kerosene and Government must take particular care to see that oil trees are not destroyed at least in future. Price control measures should be strictly enforced. My suggestion is that rice depots should be opened by Government if and when necessary. Hoarding and profiteering of all sorts should be drastically dealt with. Some two days back I remember to have read in the papers about an incident in Afghanistan where profiteers were drastically dealt with. The President of the Kandahar Municipality, it was reported, punished some butchers who were found overcharging their customers, by nailing them by their ears to the doors of their shops and allowing them to remain there for about two hours. Let it be what it is. This profiteering is a matter which requires serious consideration by Government.

MR. S CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Is it suggested that the same punishment should be meted out here also?

MR. G. VELOO PILLAI: Not exactly the same punishment.

PRESIDENT: The moral counterpart of that physical punishment.

MR. G. VELOO PILLAI: Yes Sir. Next I congratulate the Government about the provision made in the Budget for dearness allowance to Government servants drawing a pay of less than Rs. 15. In this connection I should like to make another suggestion to Government and it

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is this. They should pass early and necessary orders that Government servants drawing a pay of Rs. 25 or less should as far as possible be posted to their own native places and that they should not be transferred to any place far away.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Sir, after wading through several years of deficit budgets, for the first time we launched on a surplus in 1116. In 1117, the revised estimates show that we will have a surplus of Rs. Twenty four lakhs and odd. For the last six or seven years we never had a surplus. My honourable friend Mr. Narayana Kurup, speaking before me, said, that the revised estimate for this year is based on Rs. 220 lakhs, calculated till the end of Edavom 1117 including Rs. 78 odd lakhs calculated for Mithunam and Karkadakom 1116 as also the amount lapsed during that year. Sir, based on this year's revised estimates, Financial Secretary has placed before us a surplus budget, having a surplus of over Rs. 4 lakhs odd. It is a privilege and satisfaction to have a surplus budget at this critical juncture. But, Sir, unfortunately I differ from him in his optimistic speculations. I differ in saying that this budget can be a surplus one because I find he bases his figures and estimates on high hopes even amounting to optimistic speculation. Weighing the international figures at his full weight he himself admits that he expects only a lower revenue under all principal heads. He anticipates only 11·89 less revenue for 1118 than for 1117. I can grant, Sir, that he may get under Land Revenue the peak figure of Rs. 43 lakhs, under Income-tax, Rs. 16 lakhs, and under Excise, Rs. 40 lakhs which he expects for 1118. But I do not for a moment ignore that the realisation of these taxes depends both upon the prices of the commodities which have suddenly gone up and the conditions of trade which, even if a little altered, will alter the position greatly. But he consoles himself in that his speculative expectations of increase under commercial services will offset that fall if it comes. Under sea customs the Financial Secretary has budgeted for an income of Rs. 6 lakhs in 1117. But even the revised estimate shows only a lakh and odd rupees. Yet the Financial Secretary very optimistically expects Rs. 1,40,000 for 1118 probably hoping that the situation will brighten up. That too, I may admit. So also he expects Rs. 11·51 lakhs from the Cochin Harbour Scheme. If the prospect of the harbour is bright enough—an uncertainty—he may get it too. Under Stamps and Registration he expects Rs 27·3 lakhs. Here I have to disagree with him positively in all respects of hopes and calculations. We never had such a peak figure of Rs 27 lakhs under this head after 1112. In 1112 the Debt Conciliation Act was passed. After that the income was steadily falling. In 1115 we passed another Act, the latest Debt Relief Act, by virtue of the application of which last year, the Registration Department got an income of nearly Rs. 28 lakhs. Based on that calculation the Financial Secretary has worked out that for 1118 the income will be the same as that secured in 1117. But this will never be the case because litigation has to go down and has gone down naturally as the result of the working of the Debt Relief Act. Still the Financial

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[Mr. Kannanthodath Janardanan Nair.]

Secretary expects Rs. 3 lakhs more than that can be expected in normal years. The biggest speculation he makes in calculating the budget figures is under the item Commercial Concerns where he expects a peak figure of 57·17, never attained before. In Mysore, Sir, 19 per cent. of the State revenue comes from commercial concerns. But unfortunately even though we have introduced the State Transport Scheme, even though we have introduced the Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory, even though we had been working the Rubber Factory and the Sugar Factory wherefrom we expected a good profit, even though the Government undertook to industrialise the whole country by these enterprises, unfortunately these enterprises could not give us even two per cent. of the total revenue.

Now Sir, I shall take these commercial concerns one by one.

Rubber Factory. In 1117 we have budgetted for an income of Rs. 40,300. Even in the revised estimates the figures expected to be realised come only to Rs. 22,000. Let me remind this honourable House that for the whole of this year the Rubber Factory has been working in its full strength almost. For 1118 the Financial Secretary again expects Rs. 50,000.

Sugar Factory. In 1117 the anticipated income was Rs. 40,700 but the amount realised was only Rs. 14,500. Yet for the next year also the Financial Secretary expects the same Rs. 40,700.

PRESIDENT: That is because we shall have to be the monopolists of sugar in India, now that Java is no longer in Dutch hands.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Let us hope for the best, Sir. From the Pallivasal Scheme even though we expected a big income in 1116, we got only Rs. 1·84 lakhs. In 1117 though we budgetted for Rs. 6·5 lakhs, even in the revised estimates the amount is only Rs. 1·88 lakhs. For the next year also the Financial Secretary asks us to believe that we can get Rs. 7·9 lakhs. Probably he may get that amount according to his hopes. But my forecast is that we are not going to get Rs. 7·9 lakhs promised by the Financial Secretary, because of the international situation and because of the difficulty of procuring the materials necessary to put the Pallivasal Scheme to the maximum use.

PRESIDENT: That does not depend upon it. The materials that we have already got must give us that amount.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: In regard to the Ceramic Factory, though hopes were held out from 1113 onwards, every year the receipts ended in a minus. Next year also the Financial Secretary expects Rs. 4·5 lakhs from this concern. From past experience I can assure the honourable House that we are not going to get Rs. 4·5 lakhs with the factory under the present management and control. So also is the case with the Transport Department. Next year he has provided for Rs. 0·98 lakhs. Without having recourse to these aids

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the Financial Secretary could very easily have balanced the budget or produced a surplus budget by applying the axe of retrenchment to the expenditure that is soaring up unrestrained. In 1116 we spent Rs. 103·28 lakhs under salaries but in 1118 it is proposed to spend Rs. 107·58 lakhs - several lakhs in excess of what was spent in 1116. Under T. A. when we spent Rs. 4.55 lakhs in 1117 he proposes to spent 5·4 lakhs in 1118. Under other items, the expenditure has gone up from Rs. 154·92 lakhs in 1117 to Rs. 177·26 lakhs in 1118. This is the way he has applied the axe of retrenchment in that direction. Even if he has applied it in a place or two places, unfortunately he has not applied it at the right place. I find from the budget that when for the development services we spend Rs. 35·10 lakhs in 1116, the present Financial Secretary proposes to spend only Rs. 28·43 lakhs in 1117. That is a reduction of Rs. 7 lakhs under development services. So also Sir, in this critical international situation, in these unsettled times we are still having the old house rent and other allowances and the continuance of personal pay and such favours granted to officers in normal times. If he could have avoided these payments I think he could have saved at least 5 or 6 lakhs of rupees to be utilised for Nation Building Schemes. Inspite of the fact that the Development department failed to prove the worthiness of its existence the Financial Secretary still wants to continue it spending 10,000 year after year. So also with the chief Inspectress and her staff under the Education Department for which we spend 15,000 every year.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of my adjournment motion, about the supply of rice, it is fortunate that this State began controlling the supply and distribution of rice at various centres in the State. It was ordered early enough that the Division Peishkars should go round, take stock of the rice and control the price at which it was to be sold. Prices were also fixed later on by notifications issued by Government. Government also issued a notification that people who stock above a particular quantity must place their accounts with Government I ask you, Sir, how many have given their accounts to Government. If any body has given such an account, what has Government done to take the surplus from such people and to distribute it in the centres which were always complaining of paucity of rice? Sir, commenting on my adjournment motion you yourself said that it was the fault of merchants and that they were "playing fast and loose with Government," at one time complaining that they did not have stocks, at another time that they do not get enough trucks to bring their stocks and somehow evading to distribute the rice at the notified rates though they usually hold large stocks. I remember that some food control committees were also constituted. I know of one instance in which when the Divivision Peishkar, Quilon decided that rice should be sold on a particular day at a particular rate, the Merchant's Association at that place met and decided that rice should be sold at some other price which was different from the price decided by the District Magistrate and the District Magistrate had to pocket the arrogance of these merchants and had to put up with it. I know not how or why?

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PRESIDENT: Order, order. I think I shall now take the liberty to make one statement. One honourable member came to me and pointed out that a particular merchant was selling rice at a rate much higher than that fixed by Government. But when I said to him "will you please give the name of the merchant immediately so that I may give instructions to the Inspector General of Police to have that man arrested within the next fifteen minutes," he said he would prefer not to give that name. If the honourable member can give the name of that particular merchant I shall be glad to have it so that I can take action this evening or tomorrow morning. The whole trouble is that unless one or two people who do these acts are punished, the situation will never improve. I have never got a person who has complained of a merchant selling at a rate higher than the rate fixed by Government, to give the name of the merchant. And I ask honourable members to co-operate with Government, because if one or two of these people are locked up immediately for disobedience of Government instructions, such a thing will not happen. Otherwise the merchants remain confident because they know that their names will never be disclosed.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Sir, there is one unfortunate incident at Quilon to quote. I am prepared to give out the name and the incident. I read in the paper that a merchant was first prosecuted and then the case was withdrawn. His name is Mr. Srinivasa Pai. It pained me to read it from the papers.

PRESIDENT: That case was a case in which a young boy of sixteen was put in charge of the shop and he used either wrong measures or did something of the kind. He stated that he was a young man who had just come out from College and that he was not aware of what he was doing. He apologised to Government and the prosecution was withdrawn because his age was sixteen. I am only saying that if a man who knows his business does this kind of expropriatory and wrong thing and if that is brought to the notice of Government, action will immediately be taken.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Sir, so the impression is gaining ground among the merchants that whatever Government may say, however enthusiastic they may show themselves to be to take strong action against them, Government are not going to bring them to book.

Now I come to a personal matter. The other day speaking on the Budget you said—in the speech you, Sir, made at the Joint Sitting two days ago, you referred to an unfortunate feature and said that there are turbulent and mischievous elements in this State. You, Sir, also said that those elements called themselves as 'Pro-Soviet' or 'Anti-Jap' to suit occasions. You also said that they adopted any colour they liked. Sir, as an important organiser of these movements I may assure you Sir, that we have not the least intention in subverting any Government effort. We are not out to subvert anybody. We are out for an attempt for a reform—a social cultural, economic and political reform—of the whole world.

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PRESIDENT: I am very glad indeed to get that assurance and I may thank the honourable member for that assurance.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: As was rightly stressed by you, Sir, there will be difference of opinion and there may be difference in methods. But all our goal is only one and that is to work for the paramount interest and welfare of the State. In pursuing that ideal we are actuated by our conscience to follow a certain path whether it pays us or not. We follow a path which according to us is a right one. In the pursuit of that path, that ideal, we are bold, frank and outspoken. Sir, we do not want to make this platform of ours a cover for any agitation; you who have known us for some time know that we do not require a cover if we want so start one. Sir, we are also fighters and when we fight we do not hit below the belt. The last attributes myself and my colleagues want are cowardice and weakness. We don't mind any abuse being showered upon us. I could boldly say that in every one of my efforts whether I have succeeded or not I have done it boldly and according to the dictates of my conscience. We all work for one paramount interest—the welfare of the State.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Sir, when we are going through a most critical period in the world's history and when there is hardship and suffering all over the world, it is highly gratifying to note that our economic position is as sound as ever and that our revenue for the current year is expected to mount up to Rs. 301·41 lakhs, a peak point not reached so far in the history of the State and second only to that of Hyderabad and Mysore among Indian States. The main heads under which increased revenues are expected are those which have caused the least hardship on the masses of the people. On the expenditure side it is estimated that the actual expenditure at the close of the year will stand only at Rs. 277·08 lakhs and we are assured that this has been made possible by the exercise of economy in all possible directions. The year is expected to close with a Revenue Surplus of Rs. 24·32 lakhs against that of Rs. 1·5 lakhs anticipated in the original estimate.

Coming to next year's budget estimates, the Revenue anticipated is Rs. 11·19 lakhs less than the revised estimate for the current year and the programme of expenditure is Rs. 8·04 lakhs in excess of the revised estimates. But even in that case we will have a surplus of Rs. 5·09 lakhs. The estimates have been made on a moderate scale making provisions for all contingencies and unexpected variations. The list of items under which Revenue is expected to fall is indeed a long one. But this need not dishearten us. There are other items under which Revenues are expected to rise and what is to be borne in mind particularly is that these are war items and we are at a war time budget and any extravagant anticipations on our Revenues will be futile and hence we have to cut our expenses accordingly. We find that scrupulous care has been given to see that the poor man is spared. To make up the deficiency in revenues without increasing the burden of taxation on the poor, the cess on Rubber is proposed to be increased. This is a welcome sign. Similarly imposition of export duty on timber would not be a burden on the masses of the people.

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[Mr. P. Kunjukrishnan.]

Now, going through the Budget, one finds that items intended to give a fillip to various branches of Administration and also to add to the well-being of the general public have been provided for. Similarly the special provision for grant of dearness allowance of Re. 1 per mensem to low paid subordinates is praiseworthy. But after all is said, one doubts whether enough has been done to alleviate the present economic distress to the full. What are the main problems that confront the masses of the people? They are the problems of food and clothing. Even in normal times we had to depend upon other countries for these two primary needs. But now that those sources are practically cut off, it is up to us to strive and see whether we can make ourselves self-supporting in these matters. True, Government have earnestly set upon the task. But there are very many difficulties on the way. First of all there must be a definite well-planned scheme pivoted by Government and then there must be the funds and the lands, and above all effective propaganda among people so as to "enthuse" them in this most vital national aspect of our life. I think if we work on these lines we can solve the food problem in a speedier time than most people would think. So also the question of clothing. In speaking of the question of food, I may refer to the situation that has arisen in Quilon recently due to the abrupt stoppage of rice supply and the consequent hardship to the people about which I had given notice of an adjournment motion yesterday. The position is almost like this. The authorities in Quilon asked for statements and invoices of merchants, which the merchants though at a belated time produced and the authorities after going through the accounts ordered that rice should be sold at the price fixed, to which merchants took objection and they closed down the shops. Thus the shops remained closed for about a week with the consequent miseries to people not only of Quilon but of adjoining taluks. I doubt whether the situation has cleared even at present. Similarly there is a wide spread outcry that during this Onam Season when weavers are to remain day and night at their looms, they are not in a position to get the amount of yarn that each one is entitled to get as per his ration card. I have referred to these facts to show how the best intentions of Government can be frustrated or can even become futile at a time like this when things are very easy to get unsettled. So naturally we will have to give our best attention both to the effective production as well as to the effective and well balanced distribution of essential commodities.

Again we have to take stock of the advantages deriving to our indigenous industries and our agricultural products from the war situation and make all efforts to a speedy and all round development of the same. Again the question of secondary education is a matter in which the ordinary man finds himself in a fix. He cannot afford to lose it. I would strongly plead for a general and substantial reduction in School fees.

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A word about the Public Services of the State. The Public Service Department has been found to be useful, and it has done considerable justice to the under-represented communities so far as the Lower division is concerned. But so far as the direct appointments to the Higher Division of the Public Service of the State are concerned, the Ezhava Community, for example is in a state of acute under representation. I do not propose to go into details at present. Again, the number of Departments exempted and the Government notifications from time to time exempting certain classes of candidates and other alterations made, have all worked great hardship to the Ezhava Community. Even in the matter of admission to the Engineering and other Colleges there is considerable hardship. It is hoped Sir, that these grievances will be remedied as speedily as possible.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : Sir, ours is a prosperity budget with a surplus of Rs. 5.09 lakhs and the Financial Secretary is to be congratulated for his rather short but quite intelligible speech in presenting such a budget. The Financial Secretary concludes his speech thus :—

> "We will thus have at the end of next year a cash balance of more than Rs 60 lakhs, short term deposits in Bank to the extent of Rs. 50.45 lakhs besides other safe and fluid investments amounting to more than 2 crores of rupees. The cash position will therefore be as strong as ever and there will be no necessity to resort to any borrowing during the current year or the next".

It is extremely gratifying to learn that the financial position of our State is absolutely stable and indeed very satisfactory. Regarding the revenue for the current year, we find that a revenue of Rs. 301.41 lakhs could be realised,— a figure which is the highest so far reached— a figure which, I now remember, was anticipated by the Dewan about five years back. How happy it is to find that by the time he is to depart, though only for the time being from the State he has been able to see the realisation of his anticipated amount, which he made deliberate efforts to secure.

As for the budget for 1118, it is properly described as a War-budget, indicating thereby that it is subject to all the uncertainties that may happen during a war time. A peak point in our revenues has been reached, Sir, under your able guidance and supervision, and we feel nervous about the future without your direct and immediate supervision. Any how when we think of the offer made by His Gracious Highness the Maharaja to place at the disposal of the Allies all the resources of the State, we feel that by giving you to the services in the Executive Council of His Excellency the Viceroy, Travancore is giving her very best, making a valuable contribution to the present fateful struggle, which contribution is more valuable than that in money or in man power. I am reminded in this connection, Sir of the well-known Biblical story of Abraham and Isaac, where a father, true and faithful to God, never hesitated to sacrifice his only beloved son in obedience to such a demand.

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[Mr. Kottalil P. Abraham.]

Coming to the Budget, it has to be noted with satisfaction that the additional taxation which is proposed does not affect people who are unable to pay. It affects only those who are really able to pay. The export duty on rubber is proposed to be increased to Rs. 1½ per cwt. I learn that the duty on rubber in Ceylon is about 3½ Rs. per cwt. The other proposed duty is on the export of timber and that only in case of exceptional necessity. That is what is said by the Financial Secretary. In that respect also, no complaint has to be made.

War conditions have been scrupulously kept in view in the preparation of the budget. A dearness allowance of Re. 1 per mensem is allowed to the subordinates of the public service drawing less than Rs. 15. That is provided for in the budget. Indeed it is satisfactory to the extent it goes. But to my mind that amount is not at all adequate. The allowance has to be increased to Rs. 2 per mensem to public servants who draw Rs. 25 and less. Yesterday, you, Sir, compared the pay of the clerks in Travancore and Mysore. It was stated that the lowest pay of clerks in Travancore is Rs. 20, while it was Rs. 25 in Mysore. In Mysore, the dearness allowance is extended, to salaries up to Rs. 25. It is on that basis that I make the suggestion to include those who get Rs. 25 and below in this category. The present increase in price per bag of rice is also more than Rs. 2. It is gratifying to note that there is provision for distress relief to the extent of Rs. one lakh. Besides, for the annual investment for the help of the distressed another lakh is set apart as was decided in the previous year. It was decided last year to set apart about a lakh of rupees every year from the surplus in aid of the distress relief fund.

As has been stated by several of my predecessors, the most important problem is that of food. I am glad to see that Government have made arrangements to secure the necessary quantity of rice for the people of the State. In this connection what I have to remind the Government is that the supply of rice by rail from outside Travancore should be so arranged as to be distributed via Alwaye also as it is done via Quilon. If it is possible to supply rice through Quilon, it is equally possible to bring rice through Alwaye also because in both places the transport is by rail.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI : Sir, may I inform the honourable member that 35,000 bags of rice, coming by rail are destined for Alwaye and the Kunnathnad taluk up to Kottayam ?

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : I am thankful for that, Sir.

Then a word about the increasing of food crops in the country. Intensive method of cultivation was referred to here. As regards intensive cultivation several methods have been suggested ; for extensive cultivation throwing open of the forest swampy areas and grassy lands, as well as forest lands covered up with reeds (ഈറ) will be expedient.

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PRESIDENT : The honourable member has only two minutes more.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : It was said that tapioca cultivation is to be encouraged. One who travels from Parur to Trivandrum will see on both sides of the road plenty of tapioca plantations. To supplement the tapioca and to make it a nutritious food some arrangements must be made to take the fish from our coastal regions conveniently to the rural and interior areas.

About the Medical Department, I have to make one suggestion. I had brought in an adjournment motion yesterday about the numerous deaths now occurring on the Munnar-Kothamangalam road of coolies in Kallar and adjoining places. There are cardamom estates in those hilly places and coolies in large numbers go and work there. They invariably and frequently get malaria and are forced to walk out of the estates with the fever and die in numbers on the road side. I am glad to find that provision is made next year for starting a dispensary at Kallar next year. But the present and existing troubles have to be attended to forthwith.

PRESIDENT : Has any investigation been made about this ?

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : My appeal is that an investigation should be made in the first place. I may however suggest certain remedies also. Immediately some quinine should be supplied to the coolies of these estates. Then people who die on the road side must be attended to. Some arrangements, for example, some ambulance cars must be provided for. No body is willing to attend to those people who die on the road side because of the fear of the Police. Some arrangements are made by the Proverthicars to remove the dead bodies. But they complain that no adequate amount is given to them for the purpose. The motor-bus drivers who come by the way are also not in a position to give any help because of the objection from the passengers, and also because of the possible inconvenience from and fear of the Police. It is sometimes thought and said that it is on account of cruelty and starvation that those things are happening. My submission is that due investigation has to be conducted by a special officer or a special committee appointed for the purpose.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know the number of coolies who have died on the roads last month ?

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : My information is that it is about 50.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know whether the member has made any personal enquiries into the matter ?

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : Yes, I have.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know the result of that enquiry ?

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM : That is what I have already stated.

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PRESIDENT : The figures are startling. Enquiries will be made. It may be necessary for the House to rise at 4 o' clock to make certain arrangements. I hope honourable members will forego the inconvenience and will consent to sit one more hour tomorrow.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : May I be permitted to speak in Tamil, Sir ?

PRESIDENT : The honourable member is allowed to speak in any language he likes, provided he is understood by his fellow members.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : Thank you, Sir. 1118-ம் மாண்டு வரவுசிலவு திட்டம் ஒரு மிச்சவாரமாக சமர்ப்பித்திருக்கும் விதத்தைப்பார்த்து பொருளாதாரமெம்பரை நான் மிகவும் மெச்சுகிறேன். அவர்களை நான் மனமாரப்பாராட்டுகிறேன். அதற்குப் பல காரணங்களுண்டு. இந்த வருஷ பட்ஜெட் திட்டமானது வரவுகள் சரிவரக்காணப்படுகின்றன. சாதாரணமாக சிலவுகளை மூடிவைக்கவும், பின்பு அவைகளுக்குப் பலவிதமான வியாக்யானங்கள் கொடுக்கவும், பின்னல் அவைகளுக்குப்பலவிதமான சமாதானங்கள் பகர்வதும் வழக்கம். ஆனல் தற்போதுள்ள திட்டம் அப்படியல்ல. எல்லா டிப்பார்ட்டுமென்றுகளையும் தமது சுவனத்தில் வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஒரு சரியான வரவுசிலவு திட்டம் பகுத்து கூடுதலாக மிச்சமும் காட்டியிருக்கிறார்கள். அதனல் எனக்கு மொம்பவும் சந்தோஷம். அவர்களை நான் மெச்சுகிறேன். முதலாவது நான் சொல்வது எனக்கு அதிகமாக வரவுசிலவுகணக்குகளைப் பற்றித்தெரியாது. கனம் கிருஷ்ணய்யர் அவர்கள் சொன்னர்கள் சில சட்டங்களை பாராட்டவேண்டியதாகயிருக்கிறதென்றும், ஆனல் பப்ளிக் ஸர்வீஸ்களில் சில இனங்களை குறைக்கவேண்டியவிஷயத்தில் கவர்ன்மென்று அதிகபாக கவனம் செலுத்தியதாகக்காணப்படவில்லை. அதில் அனேகமாக சில உத்தியோகங்களை குறைக்கலாமென்றும் சொன்னர்கள். அதை நான் ஒப்புக்கொள்கிறேன். உதாகரணமாக, நாகர்கோவிலில் ஒரு இரண்டாம் கிளாஸ் மஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்கோர்ட்டு இருக்கிறது. இந்த மஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்கோர்ட் என் வீட்டின் பக்கத்தில்தானிருக்கிறது. சரியாக 11 மணிக்கு அந்த மஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்கோர்ட்டுக்கு வருகிறார். 11-5 மணிக்கு வேலைமுடியும். உடனே வீட்டுக்குப்போகிறார்கள்.

Sir, I do not find anybody taking down my speech. I have a right to insist that a Tamil Short-hand Reporter should be provided to report Tamil speeches.

PRESIDENT ; There is a Tamil Reporter now reporting the honourable member's speech and he can know that when he sees the report.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : I do not see any Tamil Reporter among the Reporters in front of me. That is the treatment meted out to Tamil, Sir.

PRESIDENT ; Order, order. Tamil is now translated to the proper place.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : ஸர், அதைப்பற்றிப் பின்னல் சொல்லுகிறேன். அந்த அதிர்த்தியில் களவுகுற்றங்கள் 13 கேஸ்கள்தானிருக்கின்றன என்று கேள்விப்பட்டேன்.

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ஸர், தற்போது தக்கலையில் ஒரு First Class Magistrate's Court இருக்கிறது. நாகர்கோவிலிலிருந்தும், அதன் பக்கத்திலிருந்தும் பொது ஜனங்கள் தங்கள் கேஸ்கள் நிமித்தம் தக்கலைக்கு வந்து போவதில் ரொம்ப சங்கடங்கள் அனுபவிக்கிறார்கள். அதனால் நாகர்கோவிலில் ஒரு First Class Magistrate's Court ஏற்படுத்தினால் பொதுஜனங்களுக்கு ரொம்ப சௌகரியமாயிருக்கும். தற்போது தக்கலைக்கோர்ட்டுக்குப் போகவேண்டிய விளவாப்பு முதலிய வழக்குகள் Cr P. E. 128வது வகுப்புப்பிரகாரம் எடுக்கக்கூடிய கேஸ்கள் எல்லாம் இந்தக்கோர்ட்டில் அடிபடும். ஏதோ சில பேப்பர்களில் பார்த்தேன். ஏதோ ஐந்து First Class Magistrate களை புதிதாக நியமிக்கப்போவதாகவும், அவர்களை நாகர்கோவிலுக்கு அல்லாமல் மற்ற ஐந்து ஸ்தலங்களில் நியமிக்கப்போவதாகவும் அறிந்தேன். இது உண்மையானால், அப்படிச்செய்வது சரியல்ல. நாகர்கோவிலுக்கும் ஒரு First Class Magistrate's Court தந்தால் ரொம்ப நல்லது. கக்ஷிக்காரர்களுக்கும் ரொம்ப சௌகரியமாயிருக்கும். மஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டுக்கும் போதிய அளவு வேலையிருக்கும். அல்லாமல் இப்போதைப்போல் தினம் ஒன்றுக்கு ஐந்து நிமிஷ நேரம் மட்டில் வேலை செய்யவேண்டியதாக இருக்காது. இந்த பட்ஜட்டில் இதைச்சேர்த்திருக்கிறார்களோ என்று எனக்குத்தெரியாது. அப்படி ஏதாவது சிருஷ்டிக்கப்படுமானால் நாகர்கோவிலுக்கு ஒருFirst Class Magistrate's Court கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றுகேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். சம்பளத்தைக்கூட்டிக்கொடுத்து First Class Magistrate's power யும் கொடுத்து ஒருவரை நாகர்கோவிலில் நியமித்தால் சரியானபடி வேலை வாங்கலாம்.

ஸர், சில நாட்களுக்குமுன் நாகர்கோவிலில் இரண்டு ஜட்ஜுகள் தானிருந்தார்கள். தற்போது மூன்று ஜட்ஜுகளிருக்கிறார்கள். எனக்குக்கேசில்லை, உனக்குக்கேசில்லை என்று அவர்களுக்குள்ளேயே வழக்குகள். அப்படி அவர்களுக்கு வேலை கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கவர்மெண்டு எண்ணினால் அவர்களுக்கு வேறு வேலை கொடுக்கலாம். தற்போது நெல் உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டியது அவசியமென்று காணப்படுகிறது. ஏராளமாக நெற்கிருஷி செய்தால் நலம். அதையிட்டு ஏதாவது ஒரு திட்டம் செய்துகொண்டு, இவர்களில் ஒருவரை அந்த வேலைக்கு ஏற்படுத்தினால் மிகவும் நலம்.

The House rose for the day at 4 P. M.

V. S. ARUMUKHOM PILLAI,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly,

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